

Swine Flu Update – April 29, 2009

Current Status: The Connecticut Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report that as of 11:00 a.m. this morning, there have been 91 human infections with the influenza A (H1N1) virus of swine origin in the United States. The nation's first death was also reported today. A 22-month old child from Texas has died. No additional information is being disclosed in order to protect the privacy of the family.

There are ten states with confirmed cases. At this time, Connecticut does not have any confirmed cases, though it does have several probable cases. However, based on the rapid spread of the virus, we expect that more cases will be identified over the coming weeks and months.

General Information: While a pattern of more severe illness is beginning to emerge, you should remember that influenza (flu) is always serious. Each year, in the United States, seasonal influenza results, on average, in an estimated 36,000 deaths from flu-related causes.

The federal government is working around the clock with the state and local health departments/districts to address this situation. The CDC is also sending medical supplies to all 50 states and U.S territories to help them respond to the outbreak. Connecticut should be receiving supplies within the next few days.

Prevention: Prevention remains the best way to keep you and your family safe.

- Wash your hand often with soap and water.
- Cover your nose and mouth if you cough or sneeze.
- Stay away for others who are sick.

Sick Procedures: However, if you are sick – with a fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and extreme tiredness, you should give your health care provider a call. **AND YOU SHOULD NOT GO TO WORK OR SCHOOL UNLESS YOU ARE CLEARED BY YOUR HEALTH CARE PROVIDER.** If you do not have a health care provider, you should contact the community health center, walk in clinic or emergency room in your area.

Updates: New information is being issued continuously. For the most up-to-date information, visit the CDC website at <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/> or call 1-800-CDC-INFO. Additional websites are provided in the BBHD fact sheet from April 28.

The Bristol-Burlington Health District will also be providing regular updates. You can visit our website at www.bbhd.org or call our office at 960-584-7682.

L. Abrahamson, April 29, 2009 3:30 p.m.

