



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 4, 2009

Contact: Tom Schlueter (630) 444-3098

(630) 417-9729 cell

www.kanehealth.com

Two cases of swine H1N1 flu confirmed in Kane County

The Kane County Health Department announced today that it has received confirmation of the first two cases of swine H1N1 flu identified in Kane County. The results have been confirmed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. One of the cases is a student at Rotolo Middle School in Batavia and the other is a student at Marmion Academy in Aurora.

Kane County is still awaiting word on nine cases still classified as “probable.” All cases have been treated at home and are recovering.

“We can’t say we’re surprised by this confirmation. We know that this virus is in our community and going forward we now need to continue to focus our efforts on stopping its spread,” Paul Kuehnert, Executive Director of the Health Department, said.

The Health Department has worked closely with all the school districts in the county to protect students, staff and the community. If an ill student is identified as either probable or confirmed, district and health department officials will consult to determine the best course of action. In most cases this will involve closing the school for seven days to prevent exposure during the period when the disease is contagious. In addition, the schools will conduct an enhanced surveillance of absent students, looking particularly for influenza-like illnesses. The results of this surveillance will be forwarded to the Health Department, where disease investigators will closely monitor the students’ conditions.

(MORE)

We urge all of our county residents to monitor their health and follow basic prevention measures to stay healthy. Everyday actions people can take to stay healthy are:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hands cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you get sick, CDC recommends that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.

The symptoms of this new influenza A H1N1 virus in people are similar to the symptoms of regular human flu and include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. A significant number of people who have been infected with this virus also have reported diarrhea and vomiting. Also, like seasonal flu, severe illnesses and death has occurred as a result of illness associated with this virus.

The Health Department is recommending that residents who are experiencing these symptoms to seek medical advice by either calling or visiting their doctor. The symptoms of swine flu in people are expected to be similar to the symptoms of regular seasonal influenza.

Swine H1N1 flu information is available at:

The State of Illinois hotline, **(866) 848-2094 English**, and **(866) 241-2138 Spanish**, 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week.

The Health Department's call center **(630) 208-3315**, Saturday and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. weekdays

The Health Department's website, www.kanehealth.com
CDC's Web site <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>

###