



HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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COUNTY OF ST. CLAIR



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TEEN HEALTH CENTER
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NEWS RELEASE

Information Advisory Warning Update

For immediate release May 7th, 2009

For more information contact:

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H1N1 Influenza Update

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the State of Michigan has eight confirmed cases of H1N1 influenza virus: seven of the confirmed cases are in Ottawa County and one is in Livingston County. 47 probable cases have been reported from several other Michigan counties. The CDC has indicated that 99% of probable samples submitted to them have been returned to states as confirmed.

There are no confirmed or probable cases in St. Clair County.

The H1N1 virus appears, at this point, to be less severe than first expected, and is comparable to seasonal influenza. Viruses can mutate rapidly; Michigan Department of Community Health will continue to closely monitor the virus and its effects within the state. Michigan has approximately 1,250,000 doses of antiviral medications available to treat those affected with H1N1 Influenza virus.

The Michigan Department of Community Health concurs with guidance released by CDC on May 5th; school closure is not advised for a probable or confirmed case of H1N1 Influenza. The decision to close a school is made at the discretion of a local district superintendent and the local health officer.

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School districts in Michigan that closed for suspect, probable or confirmed cases of the virus have now reopened.

There are common-sense steps citizens can take to keep themselves and their families healthy. People who suspect they may have H1N1 Influenza virus are directed to contact their doctor. In addition, there are simple and easy preventive measures everyone can take to reduce possible exposure to influenza:

- Washing hands frequently and well
- Covering your mouth when coughing or sneezing
- Avoiding people who are believed to be ill
- Staying home from work or school when you are sick
- Getting enough sleep and eating well

At this time, CDC recommends U.S. travelers avoid all nonessential travel to Mexico.

Several resources exist to provide St. Clair County residents with accurate and timely information on the human outbreak of H1N1 influenza. These are:

- www.cdc.gov/H1N1
- www.michigan.gov/swineflu
- www.stclaircounty.org/offices/health

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