



WILL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
&
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

For Immediate Release

May 5, 2009

News media calls to Vic Reato: Media Services Manager at (815)727-5088.

WILL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT H1N1 UPDATE: MAY 5, 2009 (2 pages)

Joliet, Illinois – The Will County Health Department (WCHD) announces seven new cases of H1N1 (swine) flu today. As of May 5, 2009, the total number of cases in Will County is 15. Based upon new guidelines from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), all cases (beginning with Case 9) are “confirmed cases” of H1N1 influenza.

Caseload Details

The following is a list of the cases from Will County as of May 5, 2009.

1. 8 year old female from Joliet (Reported April 30, 2009)
2. 7 year old female from Joliet (Reported April 30, 2009)
3. 11 year old female from Joliet (Reported April 30, 2009)
4. 11 year old male from Plainfield (Reported May 1, 2009)
5. 4 year old female from Joliet (Reported May 4, 2009)
6. 15 year old female from Joliet (Reported May 4, 2009)
7. 9 year old male from Crete (Reported May 4, 2009)
8. 6 year old female from Joliet (Reported May 4, 2009)
9. 6 year old male from Joliet (New)
10. 30 year old female from Joliet (New)
11. 6 year old male from Joliet (New)
12. 13 year old female from Joliet (New)
13. 1 year old male from Joliet (New)
14. 2 year old male from Joliet (New)
15. 5 year old female from New Lenox (New)

Joliet Public Schools District 86 (Cases 9, 10, 11, 12)

Joliet Public School District 86 Superintendent Dr. Phyllis M. Wilson confirms that four additional patients are associated with the school district.

1. Case 9 is a student at Sator Sanchez Elementary School
2. Case 10 is a staff member at T. E. Culbertson Elementary School
3. Case 11 is a student at Thomas Jefferson Elementary School
4. Case 12 is a student at Gompers Junior High School

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This is the fourth case at Sanchez Elementary School, and the first case for the other schools.

Over the past week, consistent with national guidelines, the WCHD has recommended temporary closures of schools attended by children with Influenza A swine flu. The closures have helped decrease the spread of infection in schools and the community.

Based upon new guidelines announced by the CDC today, WCHD is modifying its recommendation for responding to the new H1N1 influenza strain. Rather than continuing to close individual schools upon the diagnosis of influenza A, WCHD is recommending following CDC guidelines that focus on keeping all students with symptoms of influenza out of school for a minimum of seven days.

The entire guideline document can be found at www.CDC.gov.

Alpesh Patel, WCHD Infectious Disease Control Coordinator, said:

“Aggressive school closures aren’t necessary given what we are observing about disease transmission and severity of illness currently associated with this influenza strain. Closing schools with any student presenting an influenza-like illness appears to be a drastic step that is not warranted by the current situation.”

WCHD Executive Director John Cicero said:

“The local school districts will always make the final decision on whether or not to close a school. These new guidelines are designed to be less intrusive and more flexible so they can respond to each case appropriately.”

Additional information can be found at www.WillCountyHealth.org or www.CDC.gov.

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For More Information, **PRESS ONLY**

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