



WILL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
&
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

For Immediate Release

May 6, 2009

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

WILL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT H1N1 UPDATE: **MAY 6, 2009** (2 pages)

Joliet, Illinois – The Will County Health Department (WCHD) announces three new cases of H1N1 (swine) flu today. As of May 6, 2009, the total number of cases in Will County is 18. The WCHD also announces that it has scaled back its emergency response initiative for the H1N1 event and resumed regular disease surveillance protocols.

Caseload Details

The following is a list of the cases from Will County as of May 6, 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 (Reported May 5, 2009)
10. 30 year old female from Joliet (Reported May 5, 2009)
11. 6 year old male from Joliet (Reported May 5, 2009)
12. 13 year old female from Joliet (Reported May 5, 2009)
13. 1 year old male from Joliet (Reported May 5, 2009)
14. 2 year old male from Joliet (Reported May 5, 2009)
15. 5 year old female from New Lenox (Reported May 5, 2009)
16. 18 year old male from Naperville (New)
17. 18 year old female from Naperville (New)
18. 12 year old female from Plainfield (New)

Command Center Stands Down

On Friday, May 1, 2009, WCHD Executive Director John Cicero formally set into motion the agency's Emergency Response Plan and activated its command center.

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Mr. Cicero said:

“The purpose of our command center is to provide a work space where our emergency response team can coordinate our response effectively. It greatly improves our internal communications, planning, and management capacity.”

The command center includes computers, teleconferencing technology, a call center, as well as work spaces for up to fifty people.

Jackie Mansholt, WCHD Emergency Response Coordinator, said:

“We began developing our public health emergency response plan with the county’s Emergency Management Agency back in 2003, and have tested and rehearsed sections of this plan annually. We’ve maintained close contact with our schools, hospitals and other stakeholders over the years, and the H1N1 event has given us a tremendous opportunity to test and refine aspects of our emergency response planning.”

As of Wednesday, May 6, 2009, the WCHD has “stood down” its command center and suspended its formal emergency response initiative. The department will continue to monitor disease and infection as part of its regular epidemiological program.

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For More Information, **Press Only**

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