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State of Florida
State Emergency Response Team
H1N1 Swine Flu
DAILY TALKING POINTS
May 8, 2009

MESSAGE OF THE DAY – All Floridians can help slow the spread of the H1N1 swine flu by washing their hands frequently and staying home from school or work if they become ill to avoid infecting others in their community.

Current Situation

- All four Department of Health laboratories in the state have received testing supplies from the Centers for Disease Control and now can test samples to confirm H1N1 Swine Flu. This testing capability allows the Department to expedite results as we no longer need to send probable cases to CDC laboratories.
- Florida has 23 confirmed cases in the following counties: one in Alachua, Clay, Indian River, Okeechobee, Orange, Seminole, and Pinellas; two in Dade, three in Lee, five in Broward, and six in Hillsborough.
- The increase in confirmed cases is primarily due to the clearing of a CDC testing backlog of samples from probable cases previously submitted.
- New confirmed cases are: **Hillsborough:** an 18 year-old male, a 21 year-old male, a 22 year-old male, a 19 year-old female, a 12 year-old male, and a 24 year-old female; **Clay:** a 15 year-old female; **Okeechobee:** a 27 year-old female; **Indian River:** a 15 year-old male; **Alachua:** a 19 year-old female; **Seminole:** an 18 year-old male; **Pinellas:** a 25 year-old male; **Dade:** a 13 year-old female; a 47 year-old male; **Broward:** an 11 year-old female, a 22 year-old female, a 3 year-old female, a 26 year-old female
- Florida has 18 probable cases in the following counties: Manatee, Okaloosa, Palm Beach, Lake, Duval, Collier, Pinellas, and Marion have one probable case each. Lee and Sarasota has two. Broward and Dade has three.

State Actions

On Friday, May 1st, 2009 Governor Charlie Crist directed State Surgeon General Dr. Ana Viamonte Ros to declare a public health emergency that will allow the State Surgeon General to take any action necessary to protect the public health (Florida Statutes, 381.00315).

- The Florida Flu Information Line, a toll free information service, has been established to address calls from the public requesting Swine Flu information. The number is 800-342-3557. Hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (EDT) today. An automated service is available after hours.
- The State Emergency Response Team (SERT) remains at a level 2 activation (partial). The team is monitoring the situation and is coordinating with the Swine Flu Incident Command team.
- Antiviral medication has been distributed statewide. Florida has over one half million individual courses.

Federal and International Actions

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported 1639 confirmed cases of swine flu (H1N1) in the United States and 2 deaths.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) alert level remains at Phase 5. The declaration of a Phase 5 is a strong signal that the pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of the planned mitigation measures is short.

Public Actions – recommendations from the Florida Department of Health

- Wash hands frequently to lessen the spread of respiratory illness.
- People with respiratory illness should stay home from work or school to avoid spreading infections, including influenza, to others in the community.
- Avoid close contact with people who are coughing or otherwise appear ill.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- People experiencing cough, fever and fatigue, possibly along with diarrhea and vomiting, should contact their physician.

Other Notes

- The symptoms of swine flu in people are similar to the symptoms of regular human flu and include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Some people have reported diarrhea and vomiting associated with swine flu. Like seasonal flu, swine flu may cause a worsening of underlying chronic medical conditions.

The Florida Department of Health has created a webpage with information at www.doh.state.fl.us, and the CDC has a web page at www.cdc.gov/swineflu

BE SMART, BE SAFE, BE A SURVIVOR! Go to www.FloridaDisaster.org today to create a personal or family disaster plan. All students, teachers and parents can find educational information and free downloadable materials at: www.KidsGetAPlan.com.

For the latest daily situation and flash reports go to: www.YouTube.com/FloridaSERT

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