



NEWS RELEASE

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Warren County Health Department and School Officials Respond to Flu

Two cases of Novel H1N1 Influenza virus have been confirmed in Warren County.

On May 28, 2009, the New Jersey Public Health Laboratory notified the Warren County Health Department of the two confirmed cases.

These are the first confirmed cases of Novel H1N1 Influenza A in Warren County. One confirmed case was identified as a student enrolled in Greenwich Township Elementary School. The student is currently recovering at home and is under the care of a physician.

The second confirmed case, also in Greenwich Township, does not involve a student.

Greenwich Township School District notified parents and is working with Warren County health officials.

Greenwich Township School Superintendent Maria Eppolite, in consultation with the Health Department, has decided to keep the schools open.

Warren County officials will continue to monitor the situation in close collaboration with local health officials and Warren County Executive Superintendent of Schools Kevin Brennan. Warren County has increased its influenza surveillance activity. Hospitals and physicians have been notified of what to look for in sick patients and provided with guidelines from the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) and the CDC. Any influenza activity will be reported to DHSS and the Warren County Health Department epidemiologist.

It's understandable residents may be concerned. New Jersey has flu plans to respond in the event of a more widespread outbreak. Warren County also has flu plans to respond to a more widespread outbreak and is offering countywide educational presentations to educate residents on pandemic influenza and its prevention.

Precautionary recommendations from the CDC have been provided to schools and include:

- Students/staff with influenza like symptoms must continue to remain at home for at least 7 days after illness onset, or 24 hours after all symptoms disappear, whichever is longer.
- The school's custodial staff will conduct daily cleaning of high touch surfaces such as desktops, banisters and door handles.
- Continue to use good hygiene practice both at home and school thoroughly washing hands, covering coughs and sneezes and staying home with the sick.

The symptoms of swine flu are similar to seasonal flu and include fever, lack of appetite, coughing and fatigue. Some people have reported sore throat, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

You cannot contract swine flu from eating pork or pork products. There are no special recommendations for anyone who owns a pig or is routinely exposed to pigs.

More information about swine flu is available on the websites www.co.warren.nj.us, www.nj.gov/health and www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu.