



WILL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT
&
COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

For Immediate Release

May 4, 2009

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

WILL COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT SWINE FLU UPDATE FOR MAY 4, 2009 (3 pages)

Joliet, Illinois – The Will County Health Department (WCHD) announces four new probable cases of swine flu today. As of May 4, 2009, the total number of probable cases in Will County is 8. A probable case means that the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) has tested a specimen and found that it is positive for influenza A (swine flu).

The IDPH has shipped these cases to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to perform final testing to confirm if the case is positive for H1N1 influenza.

Caseload Details

The following is a list of the cases from Will County as of May 4, 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 (New)
6. 15 year old female from Joliet (New)
7. 9 year old male from Crete (New)
8. 6 year old female from Joliet (New)

Catholic Charities Head Start Bluff Center (Case 5)

Catholic Charities Executive Director Kathleen McGowan confirms that one student, a 4 year old girl from Joliet, is a patient with a probable case of Influenza A (swine flu). The girl is a student in Catholic Charities' Head Start program.

Based upon guidance from the WCHD, Catholic Charities has closed one of its seven day care facilities in Will County.

1. Catholic Charities Head Start Bluff Center, 316 North Bluff Street, Joliet
The day care will remain closed until Wednesday, May 6, 2009.

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Mrs. McGowan said:

“The decision was made to close the Center until Wednesday, May 6th so a thorough cleaning could be conducted. The parents of the children attending the Center, as well as our staff, were all notified over the weekend of the Center’s closing and the student is doing well at home and resting comfortably. When staff and students return to the Center, hand washing training and other infectious disease control procedures will be revisited. The health and safety of our students and staff is always top priority.”

Joliet Township High School District 204 (Case 6)

Joliet Township High School Superintendent Dr. Paul Swanstrom confirms that one student, a 15 year old female from Joliet, is a patient with a probable case of Influenza A (swine flu). The patient attends Joliet Township’s West Campus high school (Joliet West).

Alpesh Patel, WCHD Infectious Disease Control Coordinator, says that children are likely to be infectious for about 7-to-10 days after the onset of illness. This fact is the basis for the CDC guidelines for school closings published on May 1, 2009.

The patient from Joliet West, last attended school on April 27, 2009. Dr. Swanstrom informed the WCHD that Joliet West has seen no unusual spike in absenteeism—a key epidemiological marker for future illness. As a result the WCHD did not recommend that Joliet West close.

WCHD Executive Director John Cicero said:

“When we reviewed the absenteeism record and school nurses’ reports at Joliet West, our epidemiology specialists didn’t believe that it was necessary to close Joliet West. We will continue to monitor those reports on a daily basis as part of our local influenza surveillance program.”

Dr. Swanstrom said:

“The decision to continue to monitor the situation at Joliet West High School was based on a joint conversation with the Will County Health Department and school officials. It was determined that a closure was not necessary because the student has not been to school since April 27 and there has been no increase in student absences or reports of illness. We continue to work with the Health

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Department to monitor student health issues and will continue to follow their recommendations. We realize this is a stressful situation for our District 204 community. Our primary commitment remains the safety of our students and staff.”

Crete Home School (Case 7)

The seventh probable case of Influenza A (swine flu) involves a 9 year old boy from Crete. On April 27, 2009, the patient presented himself to a local physician who advised his guardians to keep him at home and from participating in group activities.

The patient is recovering.

Joliet Public Schools District 86 (Case 8)

Joliet Public Schools District 86 Superintendent Dr. Phyllis M. Wilson confirms that an additional patient, a 6 year old female from Joliet, is a student of the school district at Sator Sanchez Elementary School. This is the third probable case for Sanchez Elementary and the fourth case for District 86. After conferring with the WCHD, Sanchez will remain closed until Wednesday, May 6, 2009.

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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