



CONCORD HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Town of Concord Statement on Swine Flu Epidemic

As of 11:00 am, Monday morning, April 27th, 2009, no suspect, probable, or confirmed cases of Influenza A/H1N1 ("swine flu") have been reported to the Concord Health Department. The Health Department, in conjunction with the Concord Emergency Management Agency and the Town Manager's Office, is continuing to monitor the situation and remains in close contact with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Emerson Hospital, and other area Health Departments. The US Centers for Disease Control is currently reporting only 20 confirmed cases, with no deaths, in the United States (7 in California, 2 in Kansas, 8 in New York City, 2 in Texas, and 1 in Ohio). No cases have been reported in Concord, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, or New England.

At this time the Concord Health Department recommends the public take the following actions:

- 1) Continue to monitor the situation and listen for updates from local officials. The Concord Health Department has set up a "Swine Flu" web page at - http://www.concordma.gov/Pages/ConcordMA_HealthNews/0149756F-000F8513
- 2) Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- 3) Practice good "cough etiquette" by coughing or sneezing into a tissue, or into your elbow instead of into your hands. Throw away tissues after use.
- 4) Try to avoid close contact with **sick** people.
- 5) If you get sick, stay home from work or school, consult with your Primary Care Physician, and limit contact with others to avoid infecting them. Symptoms of influenza include: fever, body aches, runny nose, sore throat, nausea, or vomiting or diarrhea.

Swine influenza is a respiratory disease of pigs caused by type A influenza viruses. Outbreaks of swine flu happen regularly in pigs. People do not normally get swine flu, but human infections can and do happen. Most commonly, human cases of swine flu happen in people who are around pigs but it's possible for swine flu viruses to spread from person to person as well. Swine flu is not transmitted by food and you cannot get swine flu by eating pork products.

Town Meeting will commence, as scheduled, this evening at 7:00 pm in the auditorium and cafeteria at Concord-Carlisle Regional High School.

The Concord Health Department will continue to monitor the situation and issue updates as necessary. Up-to-date information from the Centers for Disease Control and World Health Organization is available through links at the Health Department website address listed above.

Anyone with additional questions should contact the Concord Health Department at (978) 318-3275.