



Health Department

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For Immediate Release
April 29, 2009

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Three Probable Cases of Swine Flu Reported in Wisconsin *Some Milwaukee Public Schools will temporarily close*

Wisconsin has identified its first probable cases of swine flu, two of them in City of Milwaukee residents, prompting temporary closure of four Milwaukee Public Schools, health officials said Wednesday.

The city has reported two cases, one adult and one child.

“We are working closely with the State of Wisconsin Division of Public Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and MPS during our investigation of this case,” said Commissioner of Health Bevan K. Baker.

“We will also continue our alert messaging throughout the community and activating steps to prevent rapid spread of disease in our city,” he said.

“These probable cases indicate that swine flu is active in Wisconsin and serve as a reminder to everyone to take reasonable precautions if they haven’t already done so,” said Dr. Seth Foldy, State Health Officer. “I would like to thank both the City of Milwaukee Health Department and statewide partners for being so vigilant as we track this new influenza virus. We also are investigating other reports of ill patients and our work in this area will go on.”

Foldy noted that symptoms of swine flu include:

- Fever
- Dry cough
- Nasal congestion
- Headache
- Sore throat
- Body aches and/or tiredness
- In some cases, nausea and diarrhea

“If you think you have symptoms of swine flu, stay home from work or school,” Baker said. “We are also asking people who think they are sick with symptoms of flu and who have recently traveled to an affected area to call their doctor.”

Swine flu spreads person to person when a person infected with the flu coughs or sneezes and the uninfected person breathes in the virus. So, even if you don’t feel sick, there are important things you can do to help prevent spread of disease.

Some ways to stay healthy and to protect yourself and those around you from getting the flu include:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with your upper sleeve. If you use a tissue, throw it away after one use.
- Use your own drinking cups and straws.

- Avoid being exposed to people who are sick with flu-like symptoms.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Eat nutritious meals, get plenty of rest and do not smoke.
- Frequently clean commonly touched surfaces (i.e., door knobs, refrigerator handle, telephone, faucets)

Two anti-viral drugs, Tamiflu and Relenza, appear to be effective in treating swine flu.

To learn more about swine influenza, visit <http://pandemic.wisconsin.gov/> or www.milwaukee.gov/health.

The list of states with the numbers of people who are confirmed cases is updated daily at 11am at www.cdc.gov/swineflu.