



Tom Barrett  
Mayor

Bevan K. Baker, FACHE  
Commissioner of Health

**Health Department**

Administration

---

Frank P. Zeidler Municipal Building, 841 North Broadway, 3rd Floor, Milwaukee, WI 53202-3653 phone (414) 286-3521 fax (414) 286-5990  
web site: [www.milwaukee.gov/health](http://www.milwaukee.gov/health)

For Immediate Release  
May 2, 2009

Media Contacts:

Kawanza Newson	Anna Benton
414-286-3548 Office	414-286-3064
414-732-7250 Mobile	414-397-1620

## **Cases of H1N1 S-OIV Continue to Rise** *City of Milwaukee Health Department Says 36 Cases in City*

Additional probable cases of Influenza A (H1N1) S-OIV (Swine-Origin Influenza Virus), or H1N1 S-OIV, have been identified in the City of Milwaukee, raising the number of such cases to 36, according to local health officials. Two of those cases have been confirmed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

On Saturday, Mayor Tom Barrett and Commissioner of Health Bevan K. Baker had an extensive conversation with over a dozen epidemiologists and high ranking officials from the Division of Global Migration and Quarantine at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as well as key leaders from the Wisconsin Division of Public Health to discuss the epidemic, as well as the overall severity of the disease that's circulating nationwide.

"What we can tell you today is that the CDC's surveillance is indicating that the illness associated with the circulating strain appears to be mild. Few cases have been associated with hospitalization so far, both nationally and locally," Baker said.

"However, we stress that mild disease, if widespread, is a concern for a community," he said. "Even regular seasonal influenza causes 30,000 – 40,000 deaths in the US every year, and this virus appears to be at least as severe as regular seasonal influenza. So please, stay at home if you're exhibiting any signs of respiratory illness. Do not go to work or school."

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)

MHD has also partnered with 2-1-1. Residents who dial this number will be able to have their questions about swine flu answered in both English and Spanish.

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

Or visit us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/MKEhealth> or in Spanish at <http://twitter.com/MKEsalud>.