



State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Jim Doyle, Governor
Karen E. Timberlake, Secretary

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Contact: Seth Boffeli, Communications Director, (608) 266-1683

State Health Officials Confirm 2009 H1N1 Flu Death in Ozaukee County

The State Department of Health Services (DHS) announced today that a confirmed H1N1 influenza death has been reported in Ozaukee County. The death occurred in an individual with underlying health conditions and is the first H1N1 related death in Ozaukee County.

Out of respect for the family and patient confidentiality laws, neither DHS or the Ozaukee County Health Department will be releasing the individual's sex, age, race or location of residence.

“For most people, the 2009 H1N1 flu is not severe. However, we know that the virus can be especially dangerous for children, individuals with compromised immune systems and those with chronic health illnesses,” said State Health Officer Dr. Seth Foldy. “We recommend that those individuals who are at high risk for severe disease from H1N1 influenza get vaccinated to protect themselves against H1N1 when vaccine becomes available. Over the past two weeks H1N1 vaccine shipments have increased significantly.”

Health officials expect that eventually there will be enough H1N1 vaccine – and seasonal vaccine – available for anyone who wants to be vaccinated.

While vaccination will be the best protection against influenza, until more people are vaccinated it is important for everyone to continue the basic protection and prevention measures: stay home if you are ill; cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or with your sleeve, not with your hands; wash your hands thoroughly and frequently; and stay healthy by getting plenty of rest, eating healthy food and exercising.

People who develop significant flu symptoms or those with flu symptoms who are at risk for severe flu or flu complications are advised to consult their health care provider promptly.

This is the 19th confirmed H1N1 death in Wisconsin since the spring.

For more information about H1N1 influenza, please visit www.pandemic.wisconsin.gov, or Ozaukee County Public Health's Web Site at: <http://www.co.ozaukee.wi.us/PublicHealth/index.html> or call 2-1-1, or contact your health care provider.

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