

County of Moore
Department of Health
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For Immediate Release

July 29, 2009

H1N1 (Swine) Flu

As the H1N1 flu continues to spread globally and across the State, the Moore County Health Department is following the guidance and recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services to deal with the evolving situation.

The Health Department is in contact with representatives from Moore County Schools, FirstHealth of the Carolinas and County Government to discuss the outbreak and formulate plans. "The CDC is expected to release a priority list in the near future specifying who should get the H1N1 flu vaccine. Based on this information, we will have a better idea of which citizens should be targeted initially for the vaccine", according to Robert Wittmann, Health Director. Current information indicates that health-care workers, children and pregnant women may be priority groups to receive the vaccine.

The Health Department is recommending that citizens make plans to receive their seasonal flu vaccination from their private health care provider as soon as it becomes available. Citizens should stay informed regarding the availability of the H1N1 Flu vaccine. Current information suggests that the H1N1 flu vaccine may be available mid-October. The vaccine may consist of 2 doses. If this is the case, it will be important for people to follow the advice they are given regarding when they should receive the 2nd dose.

H1N1 Flu is a highly contagious respiratory illness caused by a new strain of influenza virus. In March and April 2009, the first confirmed cases of human infection were documented in a number of states as well as in other countries. As of July 22, there were 483 confirmed cases in North Carolina. Five deaths in North Carolina are linked to H1N1 Flu.

"To Protect and Promote Health through Prevention and Control of Disease and Injury."
<http://www.moorecountync.gov/health/>

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Although seasonal flu cases normally decrease during hot weather, the H1N1 infection continues to spread. Because the majority of flu cases being diagnosed this summer are the H1N1 strain, the North Carolina Division of Public Health reported recently that, under the guidance of the CDC, health departments will discontinue reporting of confirmed and probable cases. The State Health Department reports that since only a small proportion of persons with respiratory illness are tested for H1N1, counts of laboratory confirmed cases greatly underestimate the true number of cases.

Common symptoms of the H1N1 flu include fever, cough and sore throat. Other symptoms can include runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills, fatigue and in some persons, loss of appetite, diarrhea and vomiting. If you feel sick enough to see a doctor, call your health care provider. Stay at home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.

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