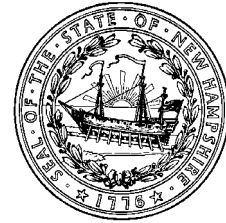


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New Hampshire Identifies First Probable Case of Swine Influenza

Concord, NH – At a press briefing held this morning, Governor John Lynch and representatives from the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services announced the first probable case of swine influenza (H1N1) in a New Hampshire resident. The person is a health care worker at Concord Hospital, but this person did not report to work during the time they were contagious. The person is doing well and recovering at home.

The case is considered probable as opposed to confirmed pending confirmation by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in Atlanta. Results are expected to be back by the end of the day Friday.

“While this is an uneasy time for everyone, we are encouraged that this patient has responded to treatment and is recovering,” said Dr. Jose Montero, the State's public health director. “We have expected all along to eventually have cases in New Hampshire and we continue to use surveillance to monitor for additional cases.”

The State and Concord Hospital are taking the necessary steps to help ensure that others are not at risk. The possible case demonstrates the need to take precautions against the spread of the virus. Anyone experiencing flu-like symptoms should call a doctor and isolate themselves from other people. Proper hand-washing can help prevent contracting the virus, and people should cough or sneeze into their sleeves.

The symptoms of swine flu are similar to seasonal influenza, including fever, sore throat, cough, stuffy nose, chills, headache and muscle aches, and fatigue. Some patients have also reported diarrhea and vomiting and severe illness, including pneumonia and death, have been reported as well. Swine flu cases have been confirmed in 11 states so far and more cases are expected. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said there have been 109 cases, including 50 in New York, 26 in Texas and 14 in California. A toddler from Mexico died in Texas earlier in the week, marking the first U.S. death from the virus.

For questions about swine flu, possible symptoms, travel information or other issues related to this illness residents can call 1-888-330-6764 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. daily. For more information on swine flu, visit www.dhhs.nh.gov or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at www.cdc.gov/swineflu.

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