



MEDIA RELEASE

UMATILLA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

200 SE Third, Pendleton, Oregon

Immediate Release

Date: September 4, 2009

Time: 2:30 p.m.

Contact Information:
(541) 278-5432

Genni Lehnert, Administrator
Sharon Waldern, Nursing Supervisor
Sherena Clements, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator

Public Health Officials Confirm H1N1 Case in the Eastern Part of Umatilla County

Pendleton, Ore. – Umatilla County Health Department officials announced today that a case of H1N1 influenza (swine) flu virus has been confirmed in the eastern part of Umatilla County. The adolescent who is in critical condition at a Washington State hospital, tested positive for the H1N1 (swine) flu virus. The adolescent is also being treated for other medical conditions.

“I am very concerned about this adolescent and want to encourage others to take the necessary precautions to protect themselves for both seasonal and H1N1 influenza.” Stated, Genni Lehnert, Administrator Umatilla County Public Health.

Residents can minimize the risk of getting the flu by paying close attention to things such as not touching your hands to your nose, eyes, or mouth, washing your hands often with soap and water, using alcohol based hand sanitizers if soap isn't readily available, and not sharing items such as drinks, food, toys, utensils and any other items where germs can collect. If you are experiencing a fever, sore throat, coughing, muscle aches, fatigue, etc. do your part and stay home. If the symptoms persist, contact your doctor's office to schedule an appointment. Following these tips will not only help to limit the spread of germs, but it will also help keep you healthy.

A vaccine for H1N1 is being produced and should be available later this fall through H1N1 flu clinics held throughout Umatilla County. There are no dates of these clinics yet, because vaccine has not yet arrived but, the public will be well informed when the dates and locations have been determined. In addition to the H1N1 vaccine, the public is urged to get a seasonal flu shot now.

“We're still learning about the H1N1 flu virus and we don't know how severe it will be. We encourage everyone to take appropriate precautions.” Stated Sherena Clements, Umatilla County Preparedness Coordinator.

For more information, you can visit the CDC website www.cdc.gov or www.flu.oregon.gov

#