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Charlie Crist
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**State of Florida
State Emergency Response Team
H1N1 Swine Flu
DAILY TALKING POINTS
May 5, 2009**

MESSAGE OF THE DAY – Department of Health and State Teams remain vigilant in unified efforts to educate and inform Floridians about H1N1 swine flu. If you are ill, plan to stay home from work or school to avoid infecting others.

Current Situation

- Florida has five confirmed cases in the following counties: two in Lee, one in Broward, one in Orange, and one in Pinellas.
- Alachua, Lee, Indian River, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, Seminole, and Clay have one probable case each. Miami Dade and Broward each have three probable cases. Hillsborough County has six probable cases.

State Actions

On Friday, May 1st, 2009 Governor Charlie Crist directed State Surgeon General Dr. Ana Viamonte Ros to declare a public health emergency that will allow the State Surgeon General to take any action necessary to protect the public health (Florida Statutes, 381.00315).

- The Florida Flu Information Line, a toll free information service, has been established to address an increasing number of calls from the public requesting Swine Flu information. The number is 800-342-3557. Hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (EDT). An automated service is available after hours.
- On Monday the line received 1,151 with 460 calls seeking information on flu symptoms. 216 calls for general information, 104 calls regarding confirmed cases, and 80 calls received regarding school closures.
- Statewide conference calls continue. County emergency management and health department officials will give a briefing on the current situation, state actions and provide a forum to pose questions to Department of Health and Emergency Management senior officials.
- The State Emergency Response Team (SERT) remains at a level 2 activation (partial). The team is monitoring the situation and is coordinating with the Swine Flu Incident Command team.

- Antiviral medication has been distributed statewide. Florida has over one half million individual courses.
- The Florida Department of Education is now posting school closures at: <http://www.fldoe.org/closed-schools.asp>

Federal and International Actions

- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported 276 confirmed cases of swine flu (H1N1) in the United States, with one death.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) alert level remains at Phase 5. The declaration of a Phase 5 is a strong signal that the pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of the planned mitigation measures is short.

Public Actions – recommendations from the Florida Department of Health

- Wash hands frequently to lessen the spread of respiratory illness.
- People with respiratory illness should stay home from work or school to avoid spreading infections, including influenza, to others in the community.
- Avoid close contact with people who are coughing or otherwise appear ill.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- People experiencing cough, fever and fatigue, possibly along with diarrhea and vomiting, should contact their physician.

Other Notes

- The symptoms of swine flu in people are similar to the symptoms of regular human flu and include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Some people have reported diarrhea and vomiting associated with swine flu. Like seasonal flu, swine flu may cause a worsening of underlying chronic medical conditions.
- Swine influenza viruses are not transmitted by food and a person cannot get swine influenza from eating pork products. The infections appear to spread from person to person.

The Florida Department of Health has created a webpage with information at www.doh.state.fl.us, and the CDC has a web page at www.cdc.gov/swineflu

BE SMART, BE SAFE, BE A SURVIVOR! Go to www.FloridaDisaster.org today to create a personal or family disaster plan. All students, teachers and parents can find educational information and free downloadable materials at: www.KidsGetAPlan.com.

For the latest daily situation and flash reports go to: www.YouTube.com/FloridaSERT

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