

## **Swine Flu/H1N1 Employee Update/May 4/2009**

Georgia now has two confirmed cases of Swine Flu/H1N1 – the Kentucky woman who has been hospitalized in LaGrange, and a 14-year-old from Henry County. The private school the youth attends, following Centers for Disease Control guidelines, will be closed for 14 days. The youth is at home and is doing well.

Three more cases have been sent from the Georgia Public Health Lab to the CDC for analysis. Although results are pending, Dr. Sandy Ford, director of the state PH division, said today that the state expects the three pending cases “will be positive.”

Today a sample from Southwest Health District is being shipped to the state lab for testing. It is the only suspected case from Southwest District at this time (two samples sent from our District to the lab late last week to be tested for Swine Flu/H1N1 came back negative for influenza virus).

Southwest Health District is awaiting a shipment of viral specimen transport kits from the state lab.

“The hopeful news is that the severity of the illness does not appear to be as bad as we feared,” said Southwest Health District Deputy Director Brenda Greene today. “That is not to say that some people are not extremely ill, nor is it to say that we are lowering our level of concern. We are still closely monitoring the situation, keeping our partner agencies informed and distributing guidelines and updates to the public.”

She said the best defense against the infection for now remains the same:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hands cleaners are also effective.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you get sick, stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.

New interim guidelines on several topics are expected to be released by the CDC within the next few days. To stay current, check with the toll-free information line, 1-888-899-9788, or by going online to [www.southwestgeorgiapublichealth.org](http://www.southwestgeorgiapublichealth.org) or. [www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/).