



SOUTHWEST PUBLIC HEALTH DISTRICT

1109 North Jackson Street
Albany, Georgia 31701-2022
(229) 430-4599 Fax (229) 430-5143 Emergency 888-430-4590
www.southwestgeorgiapublichealth.org

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Contact: Carolyn Maschke, Public Information Officer
229-430-1969, 229-357-0257; cwmaschke@dhr.state.ga.us

Southwest Health District updates on Swine Flu H1N1

Two possible cases of Swine Flu H1N1 from Southwest Georgia sent to the state lab late last week for testing were negative, Public Health authorities said this morning.

However, samples that fit the Centers for Disease Control's criteria continue to be collected, said Southwest Health District Deputy Director Brenda Greene. "It takes several days to get results back," she said. "We do not expect to get any results from our specimens today."

Georgia's count of confirmed cases remains the same – one Kentucky woman is being treated for Swine Flu H1N1 in LaGrange. No new cases have been confirmed, Greene said.

She also said 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," Greene said. "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.

Baker	Calhoun	Colquitt	Decatur	Dougherty	Early	Grady
Lee	Miller	Mitchell	Seminole	Terrell	Thomas	Worth

More information is available from the toll-free information line, 1-888-899-9788, or by going online to www.southwestgeorgiapublichealth.org or www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

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