

Cook County Department of Public Health

Cook County Health & Hospitals System

(formerly Cook County Bureau of Health Services)

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Andrea L. Zopp

1010 Lake Street, Suite 300
Oak Park, Illinois 60301

Telephone (708) 492-2000
TDD (708) 492-2002

Stephen A. Martin, Jr., Ph.D., M.P.H.
Chief Operating Officer

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Contact: Amy Poore 708-492-2015

Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) reports first probable cases swine influenza (H1N1) in suburban Cook County

Officials at CCDPH have recommended temporary closure of Ridge Circle Elementary School in Streamwood after learning that an 11 year old male student from Streamwood is one of two probable swine influenza (H1N1) cases in suburban Cook County. The second probable case is a 27 year old male Lemont resident. Both probable cases are awaiting confirmatory testing from the CDC.

Close personal contacts of the affected individuals have been notified and encouraged to see their personal care providers for testing and treatment recommendations if they experience influenza-like symptoms.

“Recommending temporary closure of Ridge Circle Elementary School is a precautionary measure to protect the students, faculty and staff as well as the overall community,” CCDPH COO Stephen A. Martin, Jr., Ph.D., M.P.H. said. “We are working closely with school officials to provide guidance for reducing the risk of infection in the school and at home.”

All residents are encouraged to continue to monitor their health and contact their primary care provider if they develop flu-like symptoms (e.g. fever that is over 100 degrees with nasal congestion, sore throat and/or cough).

The most effective way to avoid infection with the swine flu virus is to:

- 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.
- Cough into your elbow or sleeve if tissues are not available.
- Wash your hands early and often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers are also effective if soap and water are not readily available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people by maintaining a distance of 6 feet.
- If you get sick, stay home from work or school.

Swine flu virus is a respiratory disease of pigs that has the ability to infect humans and can spread via person-to-person transmission. There is no evidence at this time that animals are involved in the transmission of the virus and there are no known risks associated with eating pork.

For more information, visit www.cookcountypublichealth.org or contact the Cook County Department of Public Health's swine flu hotline at: 708-492-2000.

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