

# **Delaware General Health District**

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# NEWS RELEASE

## **HEALTH DISTRICT SUGGESTS PRECAUTIONS AGAINST SWINE FLU**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

For further information contact Jesse Carter, public information officer, at 740-203-2085.

**DELAWARE, Oh., April 27, 2009** – The Delaware General Health District is providing information and advice about Swine Influenza to local doctor’s offices, urgent cares, schools, daycares, and community leaders.

The local Health District is monitoring the Swine Influenza situation closely in concert with state and national Public Health authorities.

As of this morning, one case of Swine Flu had been reported in Ohio, involving a 9-year-old child in Lorain County who recently traveled to Mexico. No cases have been reported yet in Delaware County or Central Ohio.

People need to take these precautions to protect themselves from Swine Flu and other diseases:

- Wash your hands frequently with warm water and soap to eliminate germs.
- Stay home if you are sick, and try to avoid close contact with sick people. Swine Flu symptoms include fever, body aches, runny nose, sore throat, nausea, vomiting and/or diarrhea.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with your shirt sleeve or a handkerchief or tissue.

The Health District will provide regularly updated information about the Swine Flu situation to the public on its web site, [www.delawarehealth.org](http://www.delawarehealth.org), and Information Line, 740-203-2015.

“This Swine Flu appears to be spreading from person to person. For that reason, it is important that persons with symptoms not be at schools, daycare centers, or workplaces where

they could potentially give the illness to many others,” said Joan Bowe RN., Delaware General Health District Personal Health Director.

The local Health District also is reviewing plans and procedures for closing mass gatherings and rapid distribution of medications. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have released some stocks of prescription antiviral medications for possible public distribution if the outbreak worsens. None of the medication has been shipped to local health departments at this time.

Most Swine Flu cases in the U.S. have been reported in San Diego and Imperial counties in California and Guadalupe County in Texas. A much larger number of suspected cases and deaths have been reported in Mexico. In attempting to identify possible Swine Flu cases, the CDC is advising doctors to ask patients with flulike illnesses whether they have traveled to any of those areas recently.

For additional information, log on to [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) or [www.odh.ohio.gov](http://www.odh.ohio.gov).