

Richland County

Health and Human Services

Randy Jacquet, Director

Date: May 21, 2009

To: Richland County Media

From: Marianne Stanek
Richland County Health & Human Services Public Health

Re: 1st case of Novel Influenza A (H1N1) confirmed in Richland County

NOVEL INFLUENZA A (H1N1)/2009 confirmed in Richland Center High School student

Richland County Health & Human Services Public Health was notified Thursday afternoon of a confirmed case of novel influenza A (H1N1)/2009 in a Richland Center High School student who resides in Richland County. The confirmed case is currently being investigated by Richland County Health & Human Services Public Health.

Following revised guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control school closure will not be recommended. Richland County Health & Human Service Public Health is working with Richland School District school administrative staff today to alert students, parents and staff about what they should do if they become ill with influenza like illness. Preventive health measures such as good respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette and hand washing will also be reinforced.

As no vaccine is available, the primary strategy to contain the spread of novel influenza A (H1N1)/2009 virus is the isolation of the case. To reduce your chances of getting sick public health recommends:

- **Avoid contact with people who are sick.**
- **Stay home if you experience symptoms listed below**
- **Wash your hands often.**
- **Cover your cough or sneeze by coughing into your sleeve to avoid contaminating your hands.**
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.**
- **Practice good health habits. (get plenty of sleep, be physically active, drink plenty of fluids and eat nutritious foods)**

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People who have influenza like illness symptoms (fever of 100° F or more with cough or sore throat) are asked to isolate themselves at home, only leaving for needed medical care, for a minimum of 7 days from the first day of symptoms or until 24 hours after symptoms have resolved, whichever is longer.

More information on novel influenza A (H1N1)/2009 influenza is available at:

- <http://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/pandemicflu.html>
- www.pandemic.wisconsin.gov

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