

News Release

Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County
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For Immediate Release

Montgomery County has first confirmed H1N1 case

Montgomery County Health Commissioner Jim Gross today reported that Montgomery County has now confirmed its first case of H1N1 in a 16 year-old male student at Vandalia Butler High School. This individual is recovering at home and was exposed through an H1N1 case reported in Clark County.

Vandalia Butler School Superintendent Christy Donnelly is advising parents to make sure that sick students remain at home. Superintendent Donnelly explained that school officials will work with students and parents on any problems created by sick students being off during finals week.

Health Commissioner Gross explained, “We are not asking the school to close because H1N1 flu is widely dispersed, symptoms in general remain mild, and closing schools will serve little benefit in containing the spread of the virus.” Commissioner Gross continues, “ This action follows the guidelines established by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and we recommend at this point that schools base school closings on the same factors used with normal seasonal flu.” As a rule, schools close only when the number of ill staff or students becomes so large as to prevent normal day-to-day school operations.

It is important that citizens realize that the local public health website is an excellent resource for all questions related to the H1N1 virus. If you are wondering what you should know about H1N1, visit your local public health department website. In Montgomery County, it is www.phdmc.org.

If you have questions about the local H1N1 flu situation, call 225-4508 from 8 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday. After normal business hours, you may call the toll-free H1N1 information line of the Ohio Department of Health at 866-800-1404.



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Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County wants you to have the facts about H1N1 Flu:

What is H1N1 (swine) flu?

H1N1 (also referred to as “swine flu”) is a new influenza virus causing illness in people. This new virus was first detected in people in the United States in April 2009. This virus is spreading from person-to-person, in much the same way that regular seasonal influenza viruses spread, through coughing or sneezing. Sometimes people may become infected by touching something with flu viruses on it and then touching their mouth or nose.

There have been more than 10,000 cases of H1N1 flu confirmed in the United States. There are more than 30 confirmed cases in Ohio. As of June 1, 2009, there is one confirmed case in Montgomery County.

What are the signs and symptoms of H1N1 (swine) flu in people?

The symptoms of H1N1 flu in people are similar to the symptoms of regular human flu and include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Some people have reported diarrhea and vomiting associated with H1N1 flu. Like seasonal flu, H1N1 flu may cause a worsening of underlying chronic medical conditions.

What is being done to decrease the spread of the H1N1 virus in the schools?

The school districts are working closely with Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County to follow recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). These recommendations include the following:

- K-12 School dismissal is not advised for a suspected or confirmed case of novel influenza A (H1N1) and, in general, is not advised unless there is a magnitude of faculty or student absenteeism that interferes with the school’s ability to function.
- Students, faculty or staff with influenza-like illness (fever with a cough or sore throat) should stay home and not attend school or go into the community except to seek medical care for at least 7 days even if symptoms resolve sooner.
- Students, faculty and staff who are still sick 7 days after they become ill should continue to stay home from school until at least 24 hours after symptoms have resolved.
- Students, faculty and staff who appear to have an influenza-like illness at arrival or become ill during the day should be isolated promptly in a room separate from other students and sent home.
- Aspirin or aspirin-containing products should not be administered to any confirmed or suspected ill case of novel H1N1 influenza virus infection aged 18 years old and younger due to the risk of Reye syndrome. Refer to the physician for guidance regarding use of any medications, especially those containing aspirin.
- Parents and guardians should monitor their school-aged children, and faculty and staff should self-monitor every morning for symptoms of influenza-like illness.
- Ill students should not attend alternative child care or congregate in other neighborhood and community settings outside of school.
- School administrator’s should communicate regularly with local public health officials to obtain guidance about reporting of influenza-like illnesses in the school
- Schools can help serve as a focus for educational activities aimed at promoting ways to reduce the spread of influenza, including hand hygiene and cough etiquette.

Students, faculty and staff should stringently follow sanitary measures to reduce the spread of influenza, including covering their nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing (or coughing or sneezing into their sleeve if a tissue isn’t available), frequently washing hands with soap and water, or using hand sanitizer if hand washing with soap and water is not possible.

Additional information about H1N1 flu can be found on the Public Health – Dayton & Montgomery County website, which will provide links to the CDC and Ohio Department of Health sites: www.phdmc.org

Please contact the Health Department at 225-4508 if you have additional questions.