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Taney County Health Department



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*****FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****

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First H1N1 Cases Officially Reported in Taney County

The Taney County Health Department received confirmation on August 17 of two laboratory confirmed cases of 2009 novel H1N1 Influenza A in Taney County teenagers. These are the first laboratory confirmed H1N1 cases among Taney County residents.

“We are not surprised to see the first confirmed cases in Taney County because we know the illness is present in every state,” said health department administrator Jim Berry. “We have been anticipating that we would confirm the presence of the new influenza virus in our community and have been preparing.”

The best protection against H1N1 continues to be proven disease prevention methods such as good hand washing. To stay healthy, follow the three C’s:

- Clean – properly wash your hands frequently
- Cover – cover your cough and sneeze
- Contain – contain your germs by staying home from school or work if you are sick

The symptoms of H1N1 influenza are similar to other flu-like illnesses. If you develop flu-like symptoms (such as a fever over 100 degrees with cough or sore throat), it is very important that you stay home from work or school for at least 24 hours after your fever is gone without the use of fever reducing medication. The health department suggests staying home when you are sick unless seeking medical care and limiting contact with others. Most people who get the flu need supportive care such as extra fluids and rest. If symptoms are severe or persist, contact your health care provider.

“We will continue to reinforce the prevention message,” says department epidemiologist Robert Niezgoda. “It is important for the community to remain vigilant, practice good hand washing, and be aware of symptoms to help prevent the spread of the virus.”

For more information about the H1N1 virus visit our Web site at www.taneycohealth.org or call the Taney County Health Department at (417) 334-4544 or (417) 546-4725.

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