

Southeast Health District

"Keeping Communities Safe and Healthy"

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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No H1N1 flu (swine flu) in this county

As of Tuesday, May 5, there are no human H1N1 flu cases in this County, Public Health officials said. There are also no cases in the Southeast Health District which covers 16 counties and includes this county. There are 4 confirmed cases of H1N1 flu (swine flu) in Georgia.

H1N1 flu is a respiratory disease of pigs that does not normally infect humans; however, human infections with H1N1 flu do occur. This current strain of H1N1 flu has begun to spread from human to human, causing illness. The symptoms of H1N1 flu in people are often similar to regular seasonal flu and include fever, lethargy, lack of appetite and coughing. Some people with H1N1 flu also have reported runny nose, sore throat, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. If you have any of these symptoms, please contact your local health care provider. H1N1 flu viruses are not transmitted by food and you cannot get H1N1 flu from eating pork products.

An investigation and response effort surrounding the outbreak of H1N1 flu in the US is ongoing. CDC is working very closely with officials in states where human cases of H1N1 flu have been identified, as well as with health officials in Mexico, Canada and the World Health Organization.

The Georgia Division of Public Health has also stepped up its surveillance across the state. Local Public Health officials are monitoring the situation and educating the public about H1N1 flu.

"We also want people to know that unless they meet certain criteria, they do not need to be tested for the H1N1 flu virus," said Dr. Rosemarie Parks, Southeast Health District Medical Director. "Your health care provider should know the criteria and will be able to determine if you need to be tested."

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While there are no reports of H1N1 flu in this county, the Southeast Health District encourages residents to take the following precautions to help prevent the spread of any infectious disease:

- Wash your hands.
- 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 often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hands cleaners are also effective.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you get sick, stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.

This is a rapidly evolving situation and guidance should be considered interim and updated as necessary. The Southeast Health District will provide new information as it becomes available. For the most current information about H1N1 flu visit the Southeast Health District website at www.sehdph.org or the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu.

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