



**Health and Human Services Department
Flu Program**

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Public Service Announcement

World Health Organization declares H1N1 (Swine Flu) Pandemic

Lincoln County Health Department confirms today that the World Health Organization told its member nations it was declaring a swine flu pandemic -- the first global flu epidemic in 41 years -- as infections climbed in the United States, Europe, Australia, South America and elsewhere.

In a statement sent to health officials, WHO said it decided to raise the pandemic warning level from phase 5 to 6 -- its highest alert -- after holding an emergency meeting with its flu experts.

Raising the pandemic level will not change anything that County Health Department is currently doing. County Health Officer, Dr. David Long says, "The long-awaited pandemic decision is scientific confirmation that a new flu virus has emerged and is circling the globe. It will trigger drug makers to speed up production of an H1N1 flu vaccine."

The symptoms of H1N1 flu in people are similar to the symptoms of seasonal flu. Like seasonal flu, H1N1 flu may cause a worsening of underlying chronic medical conditions. If you are symptom free for 24 hours, just like seasonal flu, it is safe for everyone, if you return to work.

Lincoln County has had two confirmed cases of H1N1 flu. Both cases are fully recovered. Lincoln County Health Department will be holding flu clinics in the fall as usual.

- ⇒ Take these everyday steps to protect your health
- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water, especially after you cough or sneeze.
 - Wash for 15 – 20 seconds.
 - Alcohol-based hand wipes or gel sanitizers are also effective.
 - Stay home if you are ill.

Further information about H1N1 can be obtained from the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/flu/swine/investigation.htm.