



New Hanover County
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For release: Immediate
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Four Cases of novel H1N1 Influenza Confirmed in New Hanover County

The New Hanover County Health Department was notified by the State Laboratory of Public Health today that four cases of novel H1N1 influenza virus have been confirmed in elementary-aged school children in New Hanover County. Parents of the children have been notified.

The New Hanover County Health Department is working to determine who might have been exposed before the patients showed symptoms. Officials will be notifying anyone with whom there was close contact. People who have been in close contact with the patients will be advised to go home at the earliest sign of illness and to minimize contact in the community to the extent possible. New Hanover County remains in contact with the North Carolina Division of Public Health, local school system, and physicians. School closure is not recommended at this time.

The following information can help residents prevent transmission of the novel H1N1 influenza.

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub
- Cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing
- Avoid close contact with those who are sick
- Stay at home if you are sick

Influenza-like symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Some people have reported diarrhea or vomiting associated with this virus. Like seasonal influenza, novel H1N1 influenza in humans can vary in severity from mild to severe. Certain groups might be more likely to develop a severe illness from novel H1N1 infection such as persons with diabetes, heart disease, asthma or emphysema. Pregnant women are also at risk for complications from this virus.

People who feel sick should check with their health care provider about any special care they might need.

Residents with additional questions may call the State of NC Care Line 1-800-662-7030 or go to the NC Division of Public Health website, www.ncpublichealth.com.

The New Hanover County Health Department message line (798-6684) also has additional information.

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