



STATE OF OHIO
Emergency Operations Center

Ted Strickland, Governor

2855 W. Dublin Granville Rd.
Columbus, Ohio 43235

NEWS RELEASE
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HEALTH DIRECTOR PROVIDES H1N1 (SWINE FLU) UPDATE

COLUMBUS – Alvin D. Jackson, M.D., director of the Ohio Department of Health (ODH), and others today provided updates on Ohio’s response to the outbreak of H1N1 flu across the state.

As of Friday, May 1, the confirmed case count for Ohio remains at one in Lorain County, as confirmed by lab results from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). There are probable cases in Franklin (2), Holmes and Portage counties. Probable cases have preliminary tests indicating an Influenza A infection, but confirmatory tests are needed to determine if the person is infected with H1N1. In addition, 41 suspect cases await testing.

“It has been a busy week as the Ohio Department of Health has taken several measures to help protect Ohioans,” Jackson said. “Likewise, because most regions of Ohio have at least a few suspect cases, there are common-sense steps that Ohioans can take to help to protect themselves and their families,” Jackson said.

During the briefing, Jackson outlined the state’s efforts in several areas:

- The Strategic National Stockpile materials have arrived in Ohio; among those assets are medicines and personal protective equipment. ODH is working with state and local partners on staging and distribution.
- Disease trackers – or epidemiologists – are working with federal and local health officials to identify and investigate cases of the H1N1 virus.
- The ODH information line has field more than 1,000 calls from Ohioans. The information line has a Spanish speaking operator available. The phone number is 1-866-800-1404.
- The ODH laboratory has tested 120 samples to confirm influenza A and send probable samples to the CDC for confirmation.

Regarding personal protective actions, Jackson also reminded Ohioans to:

- Stay away from sick people as much as you can.
- If you’re sick and develop warning signs indicating serious illness, go to a health provider immediately – don’t wait.

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- If you are sick - stay home from work or school.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze and then throw the tissue away.
- If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow.
- Try not to touch your eyes, nose or mouth as germs often spread this way.

For additional information, the public may call 1-866-800-1404 to the ODH information line or access the ODH Web site at <http://www.odh.ohio.gov> or the CDC Web site at <http://www.cdc.gov/>.

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