



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

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**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CONFIRMS TWO ADDITIONAL
NOVEL H1N1 INFLUENZA A (SWINE FLU) CASES**

HONOLULU – The Hawai'i State Department of Health today confirmed two additional cases of novel H1N1 Influenza A (swine flu) in two adult residents of O'ahu. Both cases had no history of recent travel outside of the state. One of the individuals is recovering at home and remained in self-isolation at his/her home for the duration of his/her illness. The second case was a close contact of the first individual and is also recovering and receiving care at home.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the DOH can now confirm cases in state at the DOH State Laboratories Division. Therefore, the two probable cases identified yesterday are now being reported as confirmed.

"These two cases indicate that there is at least limited community transmission of the novel influenza A (H1N1) virus on Oahu," said Health Director Dr. Chiyome Fukino. "Because the two individuals saw medical providers, followed doctor's orders, and remained at home while sick they reduced the chance of others from becoming ill."

"The department is actively looking for cases to quickly identify and reduce the spread of illness and risk to the public," said Dr. Sarah Park, State Epidemiologist and Chief of the Disease Outbreak Control Division. "Our staff has been back-tracking, reviewing, and analyzing hundreds of test results from commercial clinical laboratories to identify all specimens that were identified as influenza A that may not have been properly reported and may potentially be novel

(more)

influenza A rather than seasonal influenza A. We can expect to see more confirmed cases as this nationwide outbreak continues.”

The DOH issued a medical advisory today to physicians statewide urging them to order molecular testing for all suspected influenza illness regardless of whether the patient had recently travelled.

With evidence of community transmission, we now need to look at all influenza cases for the possibility of novel influenza A virus,” said Dr. Fukino. “We urge the healthcare community to work with us to identify any cases.”

Anyone experiencing flu-like symptoms should call a doctor and isolate themselves from other people. Guidelines for home care for individuals with flu illness are available at www.hawaii.gov/health. Proper hand washing can help prevent contracting the virus along with avoiding touching your face, eyes, nose, and mouth. Covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue or your inner arm can also reduce the spread of illness.

“All of the confirmed cases we have identified so far took individual responsibility and remained at home for the duration of their illness,” said Dr. Park. “Their actions helped to protect their classmates, co-workers, and friends from catching the novel flu virus. It is so important that people continue to follow the steps we have recommended to help stop the spread of this illness.”

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