



JOHNSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

dedicated to the prevention of disease and promotion of wellness for our community.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT

Barbara Mitchell, Public Information Officer
barbara.mitchell@jocogov.org

Sarah McMeans, Risk Communicator
sarah.mcmeans@jocogov.org

For media inquiries, call: (913) 477-8436

JOHNSON COUNTY CONFIRMS H1N1 DEATH

(OLATHE, KS – **September 25, 2009**) – The Johnson County Health Department has confirmed the County's first H1N1 influenza virus death.

The death occurred in a 30-year old hospitalized female with underlying health conditions. No additional information will be given about case specifics.

"The staff of JCHD expresses its concern and sympathy for the family of this young person whose life was claimed by H1N1," Lougene Marsh, Johnson County Health Department Director, said.

Each time new information becomes available about the impact of this virus, it is an opportunity once more to emphasize the recommendation for individuals to take standard precautions to avoid getting ill such as washing your hands with soap and water (or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer), covering your cough, and staying home when you are sick.

Most children and adults with the flu who are generally in good health will recover without needing to visit a health care provider. Some people may want to call their health care provider for advice on how to care for the flu at home.

Individuals who experience severe illness or who are at high risk of complications from influenza infection, including children less than 5 years of age, adults 65 years of age and older, pregnant women, and persons with chronic medical conditions (including asthma, diabetes, heart disease, and other conditions), should contact their health care provider.

Symptoms of H1N1 Influenza include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills, and fatigue. Some people have reported diarrhea and vomiting.

For more information and updates, access JCHD's website at <http://health.jocogov.org>.

MEDIA MEMBERS: The Health Department will hold a media availability from 12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. for questions and interviews at the Olathe office, 11875 S. Sunset Drive, Olathe, KS 66061.

-###-