

DeKalb County Health Department

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FROM: Karen Grush, Public Health Administrator



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The death of a teenager in DeKalb County has been confirmed to be related to 2009 H1N1 flu. Due to illness, the teenager had not started school this year. The Health Department is investigating whether the student had any underlying medical conditions contributing to the death. The Health Department extends its sympathy and deepest condolences to the family.

This is the first death of a DeKalb County resident with 2009 H1N1 influenza. As has been noted in Illinois and around the country, fatalities due to influenza continue to occur, especially but not exclusively, when there are underlying medical conditions that increase the risk of severe illness.

According to CDC, it is estimated that there have been more than a million cases of the 2009 H1N1 flu in the U.S. In Illinois, there have been 20 deaths due to H1N1 influenza in 2009, with 6 deaths under the age of 24 reported.

The DeKalb County Health Department reminds residents to take everyday actions to help prevent illness and spread of the 2009 H1N1 influenza in the community. This is the same new virus that has been circulating in the nation and in our community since April of this year.

County residents are encouraged to follow the 3Cs:

CLEAN – wash your hands frequently to prevent the spread of germs.

COVER – your cough and sneeze with a tissue or sleeve, not your hand.

CONTAIN – contain your germs. Stay home if you are sick.

Persons experiencing signs of severe illness (such as difficulty breathing, dehydration, confusion, pain or pressure in chest or abdomen) should seek medical attention immediately, and persons with underlying conditions, including pregnant women, should promptly contact their physician if they develop influenza-like illness.

Additional information on seasonal flu and the 2009 H1N1 flu is available on www.flu.gov or www.dekalbcountyhealthdepartment.org.

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