

Lee County resident dies of swine flu

First H1N1 death in the county

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51-year-old man who had reported no pre-existing conditions or chronic illnesses has died of the swine flu.

"Our deepest sympathies are extended to family and friends," said Judith A. Hartner, M.D., M.P.H., M.P.A., Director of the Lee County Health Department. "We have continued to see influenza activity over the summer. Therefore, we urge people to take precautions against flu-illness by following proper hygiene"

Since April when the first cases of H1N1 virus were identified in Lee County, 43 residents have been confirmed with one death resulting from H1N1. For Lee County, the trend appears to be mirroring the state and national trends where the majority of cases are concentrated in children.

The Lee County Health Department urges people to wash their hands frequently, stay home from work or school if they feel ill, and cover their mouths with a tissue or their sleeve if they are coughing. These common sense precautions will greatly reduce the risk of transmission of all flu virus whether seasonal or swine flu.

While most cases of H1N1 Flu are mild, there are exceptions. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has advised people with chronic pre-existing conditions and pregnant women to be especially vigilant to prevent against infection. If someone experiences flu-like symptoms they should contact their health care providers or hospital for instructions about receiving treatment.

People experiencing cough, fever of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher and sore throat, possibly along with diarrhea and vomiting, should contact their physician. If you think you have influenza, please call your health care provider and discuss whether you need to be seen in their office, emergency department or stay home.

For more information on swine flu, visit: www.flu.gov. Additionally a local Lee County Health Department message line is available at 239-461-6180 and has been established to inform the public requesting H1N1 flu information.

Source: Lee County Health Department

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