



Lee County **First swine flu death in Lee County**

Posted: July 22, 2009 09:24 AM EDT

Updated: July 22, 2009 09:33 AM EDT

Health officials announced today a Lee county man has died of Swine Flu. The (Swine) Flu or H1N1 has been active in the area throughout the summer. Since April 43 cases have been confirmed. The total deaths in the State of Florida stands at 22.

"I think it serves as a sober reminder of how fatal that influenza can be," said Jennifer James-Mesloh with Lee Health. The man's name and the details of his treatment will not be released for privacy reasons, but officials did say before he contracted the swine strain, he was a perfectly healthy 51-year-old.

"What we know is that he was in the hospital for some days, and that he was being supported on a ventilator for some of those days," said Director Dr. Judith Hartner. She warns the flu acts differently in everyone, and says this strain is mostly causing death in those between the ages of 40 and 60.

"Speculation is people over 60 were exposed to an H-1-N-1 virus back in the fifties," and built up a low immunity to the strain she said. A vaccine is in the works, the National Institute of Health will begin testing healthy adults soon across the country. James-Mesloh says if and when it gets approved, the county will be ready to get it out to those who are high risk: children, pregnant women and health care workers.

"Come the fall we are going to be notifying pretty much any major group in the county that might be at risk for swine flu." Lee county officials will be meeting with officials from other state health departments on July 26th and 27th in the Orlando area to discuss mass vaccination plans. That could include administering shots to children in school. The vaccine could be ready come October, and the start of flu season.

Officials remind everyone to practice good hygiene etiquette, and to stay home and see a doctor if you exhibit flu like symptoms.

CHRISTINA BAILEY, REPORTER
cbailey@fox4now.com



All content © Copyright 2000 - 2009 WorldNow and WFTX. All Rights Reserved.
For more information on this site, please read our [Privacy Policy](#) and [Terms of Service](#).