

<http://www.nbc-2.com/Global/story.asp?s=10768871&>

NBC-2.com WBBH News for Fort Myers, Cape Coral & Naples, Florida First H1N1 death in Lee County



First H1N1 death in Lee County

Posted: Jul 22, 2009 9:14 AM EDT Wednesday, July 22, 2009 9:14 AM EST Updated: Jul 22, 2009 5:08 PM EDT Wednesday, July 22, 2009 5:08 PM EST



FORT MYERS: A Lee County resident has died from the H1N1 'swine' flu virus - the first death related to the disease in the county, according to the Lee County Health Department.

The victim is described as a 51-year-old man who had no known pre-existing conditions or chronic illness, according to health officials.

The health department says there have been a total of 43 swine flu cases in the county, with one death.

They say those statistics mirror state and national trends for the disease, in which the majority of cases are found in children.

Some doctors say Southwest Florida is experiencing its second wave of the H1N1 virus, while others say it never went away.

"The message I want people to hear is that the swine flu has been with us all summer. We've continued to get reported cases every week. Swine flu is with us," said Dr. Judith Hartner of the Lee County Health Department.

Health officials continue to urge people to wash their hands frequently, stay home from school or work when they feel sick and cover their mouth with a tissue or a sleeve as the best ways to prevent transmission of the disease.

Swine flu symptoms include a high fever, cough, sore throat and bad headaches.

If you're experiencing any of those flu-like symptoms, you're urged to call your doctor right away.