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PRESS Update

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Status of Lee County Influenza Tests Sent to State Lab

Fort Myers, FL-

- Since April 28, 2009, 51 specimens of influenza A from Lee County have been sent to the state laboratory in Tampa for typing.
- Of the 51, 15 specimens have been ruled out as possible swine flu cases.
- Of the 51, 2 specimens have been confirmed by the CDC with swine flu.
- Of the 51, 1 specimen is a probable case of swine flu and is awaiting determination from the CDC.
- Of the 51, 33 specimens are still pending typing at the state laboratory in Tampa.
- Specimens have come from across Lee County.
- Lee County Health Department urges all citizens to continue with good flu hygiene in order to reduce the opportunity for infection.

Showing the signs and symptoms does not necessarily mean that a person has been exposed to swine flu, but people with symptoms should contact their health care providers or hospital for instructions about receiving treatment.

Swine flu is typically characterized by a fever of greater than 100° F or 37.8° C, cough, sore throat, headache and body aches, chills, fatigue and some people have reported diarrhea and vomiting associated with swine flu.

“It is very important for individuals who think they might have been exposed to swine flu to contact their health care provider as quickly as possible,” Hartner said. “Rapid treatment is the key to recovery.”

For more information about swine influenza, visit www.doh.state.fl.us or www.cdc.gov (CDC). Also, the Lee County Health Department has set up a Swine Flu Hotline where callers can speak with health department staff to answer their questions on swine flu at (239) 461-6180. The state has information lines established where callers can receive additional swine flu information at 1-800-775-8039 or 1-800-342-3557.

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