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Governor

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State Surgeon General

## News Release

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### Lee County Resident Dies of H1N1 (Swine Flu) *-First H1N1 death in the county-*

**Fort Myers, FL**— The Lee County Health Department has received notification of an H1N1 (Swine) Flu-related death in a 51 year old male resident who had reported no pre-existing conditions or chronic illnesses. “Our deepest sympathies are extended to family and friends. We have continued to see influenza activity over the summer. Therefore, we urge people to take precautions against flu-illness by following proper hygiene” said Judith A. Hartner, M.D., M.P.H., M.P.A., Director of the Lee County Health Department.

Since April when the first cases of H1N1 virus (swine flu) 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 H1N1 (swine flu).

While most cases of H1N1 (Swine) 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](http://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.

- **Media Note:** To safeguard patient privacy, the Lee County Health Department does not report on the clinical details of individual cases. All patient information reported to the Lee County Health Department is pursuant to Section 381.0031 F.S. and are considered confidential medical records that are exempt from the public records law.



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- **Media Note:** Dr. Judith A. Hartner will be available today for interviews:
- In-person interviews will be held from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm at the Lee County Health Department offices at 3920 Michigan Ave, Ft. Myers, FL 33916.
  - Phone interviews will be also be held from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm, please call (239) 332-9561 or (850) 519-5728 to schedule an interview. If you receive a voicemail, please leave a message and your call will be returned in the order it was received.

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