



COUNTY OF ORANGE HEALTH CARE AGENCY

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

DAVID L. RILEY
INTERIM DIRECTOR

MAILING ADDRESS:
405 W. 5th STREET, 7th FLOOR
SANTA ANA, CA 92701

TELEPHONE: (714) 834-6021
FAX: (714) 834-3660
E-MAIL: driley@ochca.com

For Immediate Release
June 8, 2009

Contact: Deanne Thompson
(714) 834-2178

ORANGE COUNTY REPORTS FIRST DEATH FROM NOVEL H1N1 INFLUENZA

(Santa Ana) – A middle-aged man is the first person in Orange County to die of novel H1N1 influenza. The Orange County Public Health laboratory confirmed that the man, who had pre-existing health conditions, was infected with the novel H1N1 influenza (“swine flu”) virus.

“Our hearts and sympathies go out to this man’s family,” County Health Officer Dr. Eric Handler said. “His death is a sad reminder of the serious threat posed by H1N1 influenza and other influenza viruses. It is important for everyone to continue practicing good respiratory and hand hygiene to limit the transmission of influenza germs from person to person.”

The man is the fourth Californian to die with the novel H1N1 influenza virus. Statewide there have been more than 1,000 confirmed and probable cases of the novel H1N1 influenza virus. As of June 8, Orange County is reporting 86 confirmed and probable cases. While most cases of novel H1N1 flu have been relatively mild, at least 62 infected people in the state have been hospitalized. Most of those hospitalized had underlying medical conditions.

Currently there is no vaccine available to protect against the novel H1N1 influenza, but there are actions that people can take to help prevent the spread of germs that cause influenza illness:

- Cough and sneeze into a tissue or into your elbow.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water and use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid social gatherings if you are ill or if you have a medical condition that puts you at risk for flu complications

The symptoms of novel H1N1 influenza are similar to the symptoms of seasonal influenza and include fever, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Some people have reported diarrhea and vomiting associated with the virus. If you are sick or think you may have H1N1 influenza consult your healthcare provider.

For more information and the latest updates about the novel Influenza A (H1N1) in Orange County, visit the Health Care Agency website at www.ochealthinfo.com.

###