



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

News Release

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR

CHIYOME LEINAALA FUKINO M.D.
DIRECTOR
Phone: (808) 586-4410
Fax: (808) 586-4444

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UPDATE ON NOVEL H1N1 INFLUENZA A

HONOLULU – The Hawai'i State Department of Health (DOH) today reported four additional confirmed cases of novel H1N1 Influenza A (swine flu) to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Three of the cases were laboratory confirmed by the DOH State Laboratories Division, and one case was laboratory confirmed by the Washington State Public Health Laboratory.

The cases confirmed in Hawai'i are two adults and an adolescent that are residents of Oahu with no history of recent travel. All are recovering or have recovered at home. School officials have been notified by the department. Household members and other close contacts are being identified, notified, and tested if they have symptoms that meet the criteria for influenza illness.

The case that tested positive in Washington State is an adult resident of Maui County that became ill while in Washington, was hospitalized briefly, and has fully recovered. The individual will be returning home after the period of required isolation.

The DOH State Laboratories Division has been validated by CDC to confirm novel Influenza A (H1N1) cases for the state. Therefore, specimens need no longer be sent to CDC for final confirmation, although select specimens will continue to be sent for further strain characterization.

(more)

State health director Dr. Chiyome Fukino said, "It is not unusual for us to find additional cases of novel H1N1 Influenza A as this nationwide outbreak continues. The numbers are not as important at this point as the severity of the illness and recovery of the cases. We continue to urge people to follow recommendations and stay at home if they are sick, wash hands frequently, and cover your cough."

Updates on confirmed cases from the DOH will be posted each day at 10 a.m. on the DOH website at www.hawaii.gov/health (click on H1N1 Swine Flu Information).

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For more information, contact:
Janice Okubo
Communications Office
Phone: (808) 586-4442