

For Immediate Release

From: The Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency

Re: Probable Swine Flu case in Michigan

Date: April 27, 2009

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The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) announced today that one probable swine flu case has been reported in Livingston County, Michigan. State laboratory results showed that a 34-year-old woman of Livingston County has a probable case of the swine flu. The state laboratory results will be sent to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) today to determine if the case is positive. The woman, who recently traveled to the Texas and Mexican border, experienced flu-like symptoms and is recovering at home. The woman's doctor has instructed her to stay home until further notice.

State and local health officials are working closely with local providers and ER's on what to look for and procedures for treating and/or testing of sick patients.

The probable case (1) is not a cause for alarm but we do want people to be cautious. It is important that people continue to use common sense and standard precautions to prevent the spread of any illness, including the seasonal flu or swine flu. Cover your mouth when your cough or sneeze and wash your hands frequently to help prevent the spreading of germs. If you are sick stay home from work and school if possible to prevent exposing others to your illness.

Recommendations:

- People with respiratory illness should stay home from work or school to avoid spreading infections, including influenza, to others in the community.
- Avoid close contact with people who are coughing or otherwise appear ill.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Wash hands frequently to lessen the spread of respiratory illness.
- People experiencing severe symptoms including cough, fever, fatigue, sore throat, chills, headaches, body aches possibly along with diarrhea and vomiting, should contact their physician right away.

Note: Swine influenza viruses are not transmitted by food and a person cannot get swine influenza from eating pork products. The infections appear to spread from person to person. Drugs called antivirals can reduce the consequences of contracting the flu, if taken early. Michigan State and local health agencies are receiving frequent updates from the CDC to monitor the situation and immediately follow up on any suspected cases. The CDC has created a Web page with information at www.cdc.gov/swineflu. Your local health department has also created a webpage to address this issue and it can be viewed at www.bhsj.org. More information will be provided as it becomes available.