



To Protect and Promote the Health and the Environment of the People of Kittitas County

Date: April 27, 2009
Time: 12:00 p.m.

Public Health addresses swine flu concerns

As of Monday, April 27, 2009, 1:00 p.m. EST, there have been 40 laboratory confirmed cases of human swine flu infection in the United States. Affected areas include California, Kansas, New York City, Ohio, and Texas. Cases have also been reported in the neighboring countries of Mexico and Canada. Of the 40 cases in the United States, there has been one hospitalization. No deaths have been reported in the United States.

Due to the human cases associated with an animal flu virus, the capability of the virus to spread from person-to-person, and the spread of the virus to several communities, swine flu virus infections are of high concern to public health officials at the local, state, and national levels. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the World Health Organization (WHO) are working to investigate positive cases of swine influenza virus.

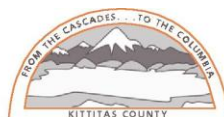
Kittitas County Public Health Department is taking the following steps to prepare for the possibility of swine influenza cases in Kittitas County:

- Distribution of information regarding swine flu to local health care providers, with updated material distributed as it becomes available;
- Preparation for the receipt of antiviral medication from the Washington State Department of Health;
- Review of the existing Kittitas County pandemic influenza plan; and
- Posting of updates on the Kittitas County Public Health Department website (www.co.kittitas.wa.us/health) as they are available.

Kittitas County Public Health Department would like to remind all residents who are ill with a respiratory illness and fever to stay home, wash your hands often, and cover your cough to minimize the risk to others in the community. Frequent handwashing is the best defense against viruses such as swine flu.

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