

## Department Of Health Update: Swine Influenza

- The World Health Organization (WHO) Director-General raised the level of influenza pandemic alert to Phase 5. The declaration of a Phase 5 is a strong signal that the pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of the planned mitigation measures is short.
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has reported 91 confirmed cases of novel influenza in the United States, with one death in a twenty-three month old.
- No cases have been confirmed in Florida thus far.
- The State Emergency Response Team (SERT) remains at a level 3 activation (monitoring). State ESF 8 will be activated at 0730 on 4/30/09 under an expanded Incident Command structure.
- Statewide conference calls were held with county emergency management and health department leadership, epidemiologists, county influenza coordinators, laboratorians and environmental health staff to give a briefing on the current situation and provide a forum to pose questions to technical specialists.
- Department of Health continues its enhanced surveillance with a network of Sentinel Physician Providers. These providers send selected samples of laboratory specimens to state laboratories for testing if they have patients with influenza like illness (ILI). These physicians also continue to report weekly ILI cases to the Department of Health.
- Antivirals have been prepositioned to areas of potential need.
- Participation in Centers for Disease Control and other national conference calls continues.
- A toll free information line will be activated on 4/30/09 to address an increasing number of calls from the public requesting swine flu information.
- Multiple updates have been made to the DOH websites for to communicate information to the public and DOH internal and external partners.