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Summit County, Ohio - The Akron City Health Department, the Barberton City Health Department and the Summit County Combined General Health District are in contact with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) regarding the Swine Flu cases in Ohio and other states, Canada, and Mexico, Scotland and Spain. There have been no confirmed cases in Summit County.

Spread of this swine influenza A (H1N1) virus is thought to be happening in the same way that seasonal flu spreads. Flu viruses are spread mainly from person to person through coughing or sneezing of people with influenza. Sometimes people may become infected by touching something with flu viruses on it and then touching their mouth or nose.

The symptoms of swine flu in people are similar to the symptoms of regular human flu and include fever greater than 100 F, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Some people have reported diarrhea and vomiting associated with swine flu.

There is no vaccine available right now to protect against swine flu. There are everyday actions that can help prevent the spread of germs that cause respiratory illnesses like influenza. Take these everyday steps to protect your health:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it. Cough into your elbow if there are no tissues available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you get sick with influenza, the CDC recommends that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.

School Dismissal and Childcare Facility Closure:

- Dismissal of students should be strongly considered in schools with a confirmed or a suspected case epidemiologically linked to a confirmed case.
- Decisions regarding broader school dismissal within these communities should be left to local authorities, taking into account the extent of ill in the community.
- If the school dismisses students or a childcare facility closes, they should also cancel all school or childcare related gatherings and encourage parents and students to avoid congregating outside of the school.
- Schools and childcare facilities should dismiss students for a time period to be evaluated on an ongoing basis depending upon epidemiological findings.
- Schools and childcare facilities should consult with their local or state health departments for guidance on reopening. If no additional confirmed or suspected cases are identified among students (or school-based personnel) for a period of 7 days, schools may consider reopening.
- Schools and childcare facilities in unaffected areas should begin to prepare for the possibility of school dismissal or childcare facility closure. This includes asking teachers, parents and officials in charge of critical school-associated programs (such as meal services) to make contingency plans.

The three health departments have been providing information on emergency preparedness through newspaper articles and community presentations for the last few years. For more information and the latest information on Swine Flu, visit www.cdc.gov or <http://ohiopandemicflu.gov>. ODH has a hotline set up for the public to **call at 1-866-800-1404**. Akron Health Department Swine Flu information hotline 330-375-2876.



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