



Village Hall

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SkokieVision Municipal Cable

1660 AM Skokie

Council-Manager Government

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Awards and Distinctions

All America City Finalist

American Public Works Association
(APWA) Accreditation

Commission on Accreditation for
Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA)

Commission on Fire Accreditation
International (CFAI)

Fitch IBCA AAA Financial
Bond Rating

Governor's Hometown Award

Government Finance Officers
Association Budget Award

Government Finance Officers
Association Certificate of
Achievement for Excellence in
Financial Reporting

Insurance Services Office (ISO) Class
One Fire Department

State of Illinois Certified Health
Department

Tree City U.S.A. Distinction

Gold Level Clean Air Counts
Community

Village of Skokie

May 1, 2009

For Immediate Release

Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Virus Update

The Village of Skokie has been informed by the Illinois Department of Public Health of several probable cases of novel influenza A (H1N1) virus in Skokie residents. All of the patients are now at home, doing well and recovering. The Health Department is notifying those who might have been exposed and are at risk of acquiring the infection. None of the patients were enrolled in Skokie schools.

“National and local information suggests that the severity of illness from this new virus is not greater than the typical influenza that circulates every year,” said Dr. Catherine Counard, Skokie Health Director. “There is still much that we don’t know about the virus, though, and the situation could change. The community must remain vigilant and take steps to be prepared should the situation worsen.”

The Skokie Health Department is working closely with regional, state and federal officials to limit the spread of the novel influenza A (H1N1) virus cases in Illinois. The Centers for Disease Control has issued new school closure guidelines in response to increased understanding of the new influenza virus which focus on keeping all students with influenza symptoms out of school during their period of illness and recuperation rather than closing school. Possible closures of Skokie schools will be considered on a case-by-case basis depending on the number of absentees and other factors.

The Skokie Health Department encourages all residents to practice the following:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water to prevent illness. Teach your children this, too.
- Anyone who is sick should stay home and get better. Do not spread illness at work, at school, at a store, at your house of worship or anywhere.
- If you or a loved one has a fever over 100 degrees, a cough or trouble breathing, call your doctor or other health care provider.
- If you have a respiratory illness, cough or sneeze into a tissue and discard it promptly. Teach your children this, too.
- In addition, Skokie residents are encouraged to think about preparedness for an influenza pandemic or any other type of emergency. Information is available at www.ready.gov.

Critical information will be posted on the Village web site and updated as necessary, along with updates to 1660 AM Skokie radio station and to recorded information at 847/675-INFO (4636). For email news alerts, sign up for SkokieNews at www.skokie.org.

Novel influenza A (H1N1) virus symptoms in people are similar to the symptoms of regular human flu and include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Some people have reported diarrhea and vomiting associated with novel influenza A (H1N1) virus. Anti-viral medications have proven effective in treating novel influenza A (H1N1) virus.

For more information on novel influenza A (H1N1) virus please visit the Centers for Disease Control web site at www.cdc.gov/swineflu. For novel influenza A (H1N1) virus information translations in languages other than English, courtesy of the Chicago Department of Public Health, visit www.cityofchicago.org With other questions call the Skokie Health Department at 847/933-8252.

Released by Marketing and Public Information Division
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