



# COUNTY OF KENOSHA

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Health Officials Confirm H1N1 Flu Death in Kenosha County**

Kenosha – October 30, 2009 – The Kenosha County Health Department has confirmed the first death likely related to the H1N1 flu virus in Kenosha County. The death was in an adult.

“The loss of a loved one for anyone is heartbreaking. Our thoughts are with the family and friends during this difficult time,” said Frank Matteo, Health Officer/Director.

Out of respect for the family and patient confidentiality laws, the Kenosha County Health Department is not releasing the individual’s sex, age, race or location of residence.

“For most people, the H1N1 flu is not severe. However, we know that the virus can be especially dangerous for children, individuals with compromised immune systems and those with chronic health illnesses,” said Frank Matteo. “We expect more H1N1 vaccine to be available in the coming weeks. We recommend that those individuals who are at high risk for severe disease from H1N1 influenza get vaccinated to protect themselves against H1N1 when vaccine becomes available.”

Health officials expect that eventually there will be enough H1N1 vaccine – and seasonal vaccine – available for anyone who wants to be vaccinated.

While vaccination will be the best protection against influenza, until more people are vaccinated it is important for everyone to continue the basic protection and prevention measures: stay home if you are ill; cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or with your sleeve, not with your hands; wash your hands thoroughly and frequently; and stay healthy by getting plenty of rest, eating healthy food and exercising.

People with flu-like symptoms should stay home from school, work and social gatherings until 24 hours after resolution of their fever. People are more contagious when they have a fever, so staying home during this time is especially important to not spread the flu to coworkers, friends or fellow students.

People who develop significant flu symptoms or those with flu symptoms who are at risk for severe flu or flu complications are advised to consult their health care provider promptly.

The Health Department encourages residents to access reliable sources for information and updates such as the following web sites:

<http://www.co.kenosha.wi.us/dhs/Divisions/Health/>  
<http://pandemic.wisconsin.gov>  
<http://www.flu.gov/>

Or call the Health Department directly at (262) 605-6700 or (800) 472-8008.

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