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### H1N1 FLU UPDATE PALM BEACH COUNTY

PALM BEACH COUNTY, FL—Following the lead of the Florida Department of Health the Palm Beach County Health Department, as of today, will be refocusing its efforts in the H1N1 outbreak toward developing vaccination plans for the fall influenza season. Surveillance and monitoring of the virus will continue throughout the summer months with situation reports maintained internally.

The latest information shows there have been 139 confirmed cases in Florida with 13 being hospitalized. Palm Beach County has had eight confirmed cases the last two being a 22 year-old female and 42 year-old male. Both had onset of symptoms May 5 and have since recovered. The outbreak in the county has been characterized as mild with sporadic cases.

CDC no longer recommends that communities with a laboratory confirmed case of influenza A H1N1 consider adopting school dismissal or childcare closure measures.

A public health emergency has been declared by the State Surgeon General and will expire on June 30.

Automated flu information can be obtained in Spanish and English at 1-800-775-8039.

Health Department Director, Dr. Jean Malecki said, "We will continue to monitor the number of H1N1 and other flu cases in our county throughout the summer months."

Dr. Malecki recommends the following:

People with respiratory illness should stay home from work or school to avoid spreading infections, including influenza, to others in the community.

- Avoid close contact with people who are coughing or otherwise appear ill.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Wash hands frequently to lessen the spread of respiratory illness.

If you think you have influenza, please call your health care provider or the health department at 840-4500 and discuss whether you need to be seen in their office, emergency department or stay home. Three websites are also updated regularly [www.pbchd.com](http://www.pbchd.com) , [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov), [www.doh.state.fl.us](http://www.doh.state.fl.us) locally information can be obtained by calling 211.

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