

## Swine flu not showing up in county thus far



Written by Mandy Hochstedler

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County Health Commissioner Dr. Boyd Hoddinott provided an update at Wednesday's health board meeting about the status of the swine flu virus, both locally and nationwide.

"There haven't been any suspect, probable or confirmed cases in Logan County," he said. "However, we expect H1N1 could well show up in the county.

"We will continue to monitor the situation closely and local status changes will be communicated immediately to local health providers and the local media."

As of 11 a.m. Wednesday, there were 642 laboratory confirmed cases in the U.S., along with 844 probable cases, Dr. Hoddinott reported. He said 99 percent of probable cases result in laboratory confirmed cases. Overall, the virus has resulted in two deaths, one in a very young child and another in a chronically ill individual. In comparison, the seasonal flu typically claims about 38,000 lives per year.

"So far we haven't seen a lot of serious illness with H1N1," Dr. Hoddinott said.

"I think when people understand the number of deaths from the regular flu, it helps put things in perspective," member Robin Price said.

Symptoms of swine flu include a fever with one or more of the following: cough, sore throat or nasal congestion. Nausea and diarrhea are no longer thought to be connected to the virus.

"The health district continues to recommend frequent hand washing, covering your cough and staying home if you are mildly ill with any of these symptoms," Dr. Hoddinott said. "It is still wise to update your home emergency supplies and plan."

Also, as of Tuesday, the Centers for Disease Control no longer recommends school closure for suspected or confirmed cases. Instead, individuals with the virus are advised to stay home for seven days.

In environmental health matters, the board ordered Kamal Shouhayib, president of Choice Properties Inc., of Troy, Mich., and licensee of Wayside Mobile Home Park, 1000 Garfield Ave., to correct a number of Ohio Administrative Code violations at the local mobile home park within 30 days, or action will result through the Bellefontaine Municipal Court.

In other action, the board:

- approved a probationary evaluation for Kay Schroer, interim director of nursing;
- approved a 45-day wage continuation for Cindy Irick, director of nursing, who was injured on the job;
- approved annual evaluations for Diana Baughman, home health nurse, and Lisa Engle, environmental health laboratory supervisor;
- approved a \$6,330 nursing services agreement with Riverside Schools for the 2009-10 school year;
- ordered Charles Rollins of Lakeview to immediately cap the well at his property at 11314 Mohawk Path, Lakeview, and also remove all waste and debris within 30 days;
- ordered Brenda Vicory, 11351 Big Bear Path, Lakeview, to remove solid waste at her property at 8848 Auditorium St., Orchard Island, within three days; and
- approved variance requests to place a well on the following properties: for Michael Bosworth of Columbus at 7866 North St., Russells Point; Charles Roby, 7753 Maple St., Waterbury, Russells Point; and Greg Wallace of Wapakoneta at 9503 Sassafras Drive, Lakeview.

The next meeting is 1 p.m. Wednesday, June 3, at the health district, 310 S. Main St.

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