

NH Department of Health and Human Services
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PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Saturday, May 2, 2009 H1N1 Update

**CDC Confirms H1N1 (Swine Flu) Diagnosis for One Patient;
Two Suspected Cases Are Negative for Flu;
State Lab Tests 189 Samples; 186 Negative**

Press Availability at 3 p.m.

Concord, NH – As expected, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has confirmed that one of three samples sent to them are positive for the H1N1 virus. The results of two other samples are still pending. The confirmed sample comes from a Concord Hospital employee, who was considered a probable case pending final confirmation from the CDC.

“These are the results we expected to hear,” said Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Public Health Director Dr. José Montero. “This individual has already started treatment and is recovering well at home. At this point there are still two other New Hampshire residents that have been identified as probable cases, another employee from Concord Hospital and an individual from the Upper Valley. We are still awaiting final confirmation of these two cases from the CDC.”

All three individuals were considered probable cases after testing conducted at New Hampshire’s Public Health Lab (PHL) in Concord. The state’s public health lab had also been testing the samples of a third Concord Hospital employee and the employee’s child. Both of those tests were negative for flu.

As of this morning, the state Public Health Lab has tested 189 samples for potential H1N1 virus, one hundred and eighty-six samples were negative. The PHL has now received flu test kits from the CDC that will allow H1N1 testing to be done in the State, which will reduce wait time for confirmation results. However the PHL must go through a certification process before it is authorized to confirm H1N1. This process will involve confirming 5 cases of H1N1 with testing at the CDC before New Hampshire can validate tests without the CDC’s assistance.

Dr. José Montero will be available at 3 p.m. to answer media questions. Media are advised to call 1-866-304-8625, conference code 109 876 1099.

For questions about swine flu, possible symptoms, travel information or other issues related to this illness residents can call 1-888-330-6764 between 8:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. daily. For more information on swine flu, visit www.dhhs.nh.gov or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) at www.cdc.gov/swineflu.

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