



IDPH News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 22, 2011

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Flu Activity in Iowa Includes Novel Strain

Important to cover your cough and stay home when sick

Routine surveillance by the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the State Hygienic Lab and other partners across the state indicate that a novel strain of the influenza virus has been detected in three children in Webster and Hamilton Counties. This virus, an influenza A/H3N2 recombinant virus, has also been detected in other states in recent months. Symptoms are similar to the regular seasonal flu; fever, cough, tiredness, body aches and loss of appetite.

This influenza A/H3N2 virus contains components of human, avian, H1N1, and swine influenza. All spread has been human to human, and spread appears to be limited: no further cases have been identified in the last week. None of the cases have any animal exposure. Because the virus is unique, IDPH has increased surveillance for this strain at clinics and emergency rooms.

“It appears the seasonal influenza vaccine currently available may offer some protection against this novel strain,” said IDPH Medical Director, Dr. Patricia Quinlisk. “However, we continue to stress the importance of personal protective actions. Remember the three Cs: Clean you hands frequently; Cover your coughs and sneezes; and Contain germs by staying home when ill.”

No serious illness or death has been reported in connection with this novel influenza A/H3N2 virus, and all cases have recovered. For more information on the virus, visit www.idph.state.ia.us/Cade/Influenza.aspx?pg=FluHome.

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