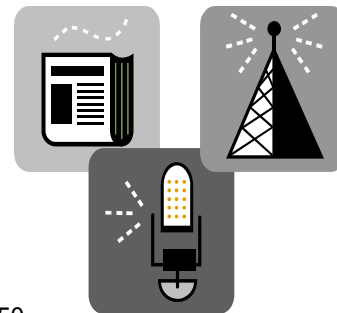




NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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McLean County Health Department Ramps up Local Efforts in Response to Swine Flu

The McLean County Health Department is taking precautions in light of the recent swine flu cases in the United States. There are no known cases in Illinois and no cause for alarm. The health department is taking aggressive steps to prepare and minimize the impact in the event that swine flu cases appear in Illinois.

The health department is currently engaging in the following activities:

- Contacting physicians with reminders of how to handle potential influenza cases and the protocol in reporting them to the health department.
- Working with Western Avenue Community Center to help identify any people who may have recently traveled to Mexico and are experiencing symptoms.
- Contacting officials at the Central Illinois Regional Airport to give guidance in how they should handle passengers that may be symptomatic.
- Working with schools and universities to address issues with symptomatic students that may have traveled recently to affected areas.
- Preparing isolation and quarantine orders with the state's attorney's office, should they become necessary in the future.

"The McLean County Health Department has tested its public health emergency responses through past exercises. The department's plan places it in a good position to be able to deal with a novel influenza virus," said Health Department Director Bob Keller. "Anyone with a recent travel history to affected areas and experiencing symptoms of influenza should contact their physicians," he added.

Again, the health department is being proactive in its efforts and there is no cause for alarm. Visit www.mcleancountyil.gov/health for the latest information on swine flu.

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