



**Grant County Health District – Always Working for a Healthier and Safer Grant County**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

04/29/2009

TO: Emergency Rooms in Grant County  
Walk-in Clinics in Grant County  
Healthcare Provider Offices in Grant County  
Clinical Laboratories in Grant County  
EMS Providers in Grant County  
Media Outlets Serving Grant County  
Healthcare Emergencies Alliance

**FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:**

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**SWINE FLU ADVISORY #4**

This afternoon the World Health Organization (WHO) raised the pandemic alert to **Phase 5**. WHO developed a global influenza preparedness plan, which defines the stages of a pandemic, outlines the role of WHO and makes recommendations for national measures before and during a pandemic.

[www.who.int/csr/disease/avian\\_influenza/phase/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/csr/disease/avian_influenza/phase/en/index.html)

Grant County Health District (GCHD) will recommend a declaration of a local public health emergency with the first case of swine flu in Grant County unless substantial changes to the virus behavior occur. This shall coincide with activation of the county Emergency Operating Center (EOC). It is possible the county EOC may be activated sooner depending on the state or regional epidemiologic picture.

It is of paramount importance that all (healthcare) facilities, workplaces and schools in Grant County begin to follow their pandemic influenza plans. Healthcare facilities should specifically be prepared for increased patient flow scenarios, redirecting patient traffic through the facilities, screening of those entering building, screening of employees, and requiring N95 masks for all healthcare workers, placing surgical masks on all patients, expanding phone triage capacities (including phone evaluation and treatment), etc.

**Community prevention strategies should include:**

- Stay home if you are sick;
- Wear a face mask in crowded places
- Avoiding contact with sick individuals
- Eliminating non-essential travel
- Avoiding crowded places and group activities etc.

Also make be advised and prepare for the possibility of health officer ordered school and child care closures, as well as large group event such as churches and community festivals.

**Please, review following strategies and information:**

- Nonpharmaceutical community mitigation: [www.cdc.gov/swineflu/mitigation.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/mitigation.htm)
- Use of facemasks: [www.cdc.gov/swineflu/masks.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/masks.htm)
- Caring for patients: [www.cdc.gov/swineflu/identifyingpatients.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/identifyingpatients.htm)
- Caring for children: [www.cdc.gov/swineflu/childrentreatment.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/childrentreatment.htm)
- Personal Preparedness: [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov)

Washington State Department of Health and the Center's for Disease Control are updating their swine flu web pages as the current situation changes. We encourage you to visit the following sites for the latest information on the swine flu outbreak, laboratory procedures and infection control. **We are working closely with Grant County Emergency Management and Washington State Department of Health and will continue to send updates regarding our local level planning and requests.**

**Washington State Dept of Health For health professionals**

Information about reporting swine flu cases and submitting samples to laboratories

[www.doh.wa.gov/ehsphi/Epidemiology/CD/swineflu/sfluresources.htm](http://www.doh.wa.gov/ehsphi/Epidemiology/CD/swineflu/sfluresources.htm)

**CDC's Swine Flu Site** [www.cdc.gov/swineflu](http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu)

**CDC's What's New on the Swine Flu Site** [www.cdc.gov/swineflu/whatsnew.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/whatsnew.htm)

**Grant Co. Health District Swine Flu Page for Health Care Providers**

[www.granthealth.org/HCProSwine.html](http://www.granthealth.org/HCProSwine.html)

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