

SARATOGA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING SERVICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SWINE FLU SURVEILLANCE MEASURES

Saratoga County residents are understandably concerned about reports of the presence of swine flu in New York. Saratoga County, in conjunction with NYS Department of Health, has begun a heightened surveillance for the disease. Public Health Department staff is working closely with Saratoga Hospital, urgent care facilities, health care providers and schools in the county to monitor for increases in respiratory illness.

According to Janet Glenn, Public Health Director, there has been no increased respiratory activity in the county at this time or any suspect or confirmed cases of swine flu infection. Individuals experiencing respiratory symptoms or symptoms that worsen are encouraged to contact their health care provider for care and treatment. Inform your provider if you have recently travelled to areas where swine flu infection has been identified. Public Health notes that regular seasonal flu is still active in New York State. Symptoms of swine flu are similar to those of seasonal flu, and include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills, and fatigue. Diarrhea and vomiting can also occur. This strain of the swine flu currently responds to antiviral medications, such as Tamiflu and Relenza. Precautionary measures can help to prevent the spread

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Our mission: To assess, improve and monitor the health status of our community.

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of the disease. These include frequent hand washing with soap and water; avoiding individuals who are ill; staying home from work or school if you are ill; covering your mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, discarding the tissue, and immediately washing your hands; and avoiding crowded places.

New York State has set up a 24-hour hot line, 1-800-808-1987, where individuals can call with questions on swine flu. For further information on swine flu, go to:
www.sartogacountyny.gov and click the Public Health Department link.

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