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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**OSCEOLA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT ENHANCES  
SURVEILLANCE AND MONITORING EFFORTS FOR SWINE FLU**

**Kissimmee-** Currently, there are no human cases of swine flu in Florida, however the Osceola County Health Department is proactively responding to this event by enhancing surveillance and monitoring efforts for influenza within our community.

The symptoms of swine flu in people are similar to the symptoms of regular human flu and include fever of 100 degrees or higher, cough, sore throat, and fatigue, possibly along with diarrhea and vomiting. If you are experiencing these symptoms, please call your health care provider and discuss whether you need to be seen in their office or emergency room or stay at home.

The State Surgeon General provided these recommendations:

- As always, people with respiratory illness should stay home from work or school to avoid spreading infections, including influenza, to others in the community.
- Avoid close contact with people who are coughing or otherwise appear ill.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Wash hands frequently to lessen the spread of respiratory illness.

Swine influenza viruses are not transmitted by food and a person cannot get swine influenza from eating pork products. The infections appear to spread from person to person. If taken early, drugs called antivirals can reduce the consequences of contracting the flu.

At this time, the Osceola County Health Department is taking a number of measures to enhance influenza surveillance in the medical community:

- Local doctors are being alerted to conduct increased influenza surveillance which includes testing patients with sudden onset high fever, cough, sore throat and other flu symptoms.
- Medical providers are encouraged to follow swine flu guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Medical providers should send suspect specimens to state laboratories for identification.

For more information, please visit the Centers for Disease Control's website at: [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.

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