



510 W. Water St., Suite 130, Troy, OH 45373  
Phone: 937-440-8105  
Web: [www.miamicountyhealth.net](http://www.miamicountyhealth.net)  
Email: [mchd@miamicountyhealth.net](mailto:mchd@miamicountyhealth.net)  
Twitter: [www.twitter.com/miamicountyhd](http://www.twitter.com/miamicountyhd)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/miamicountyhealth](http://www.facebook.com/miamicountyhealth)  
YouTube: [www.youtube.com/miamicountyhealth](http://www.youtube.com/miamicountyhealth)

## Public Information Release

Jim Luken | [jluken@miamicountyhealth.net](mailto:jluken@miamicountyhealth.net) | 937-440-5418  
Chris Cook | [ccook@miamicountyhealth.net](mailto:ccook@miamicountyhealth.net) | 937-440-5455

### Swine Flu Cases in Community

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According to Jim Luken, Miami County Health Commissioner, the Health District has received numerous calls about possible cases of the H1N1 swine flu from schools and the general public. But are these “reported” cases actually cases of H1N1 at all? “Most of the time, we won’t really know,” Luken said. Testing done in a doctor’s office checks for the flu. But the test does not reveal if it is regular seasonal flu or H1N1. “People should not go to their doctor or the hospital and request H1N1 swine flu testing. It’s just not something that is being done,” Luken said. Cases of any flu are only reported to the Health District when people are admitted and stay in the hospital.

Many Miami County parents are concerned about sending their kids to school not knowing if there are cases of H1N1 or not. “At this point, I think it’s fair to say H1N1 is everywhere in the community,” says Luken. “That shouldn’t scare anyone, but rather help folks get past thinking ‘when will it be in my school’ and get them thinking about prevention.”

Luken says that right now he is not recommending that any of the Miami County schools close if they have a student with the flu. “We are in constant contact with the Superintendents and they are great to work with. The safety of students is their top priority and so is ours.”

The Health District recommends the following to parents of school kids:

- Keep your kids in school if they are healthy. The people who should stay home are those who are sick, not the well ones.
- Teach your kids prevention techniques like covering their cough with their arm and using hand sanitizer.
- Get a seasonal flu shot for everyone in your family.
- When it becomes available, target groups should get the H1N1 shot.
- Listen to the advice of school administrators since they are working closely with the Health District.
- Visit the Health District’s website often for flu updates at [www.miamicountyhealth.net](http://www.miamicountyhealth.net)



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The H1N1 swine flu vaccine is not available yet. However, the Health District will be getting vaccine in the coming weeks. "As soon as we get it, we will schedule our clinics and vaccinate the high-priority groups – which includes school-age kids among others," Luken said. "In the meantime, why not get the seasonal flu shot to help keep you safe from the other flu viruses out there? Don't forget that H1N1 is not the only bug out this season." The Health District will have a regular seasonal flu shot clinic from October 5<sup>th</sup> to the 9<sup>th</sup> at the Hobart Center for County Government in Troy.

For more information about the seasonal flu or the H1N1 swine flu, visit the Health District's website at [www.miamcountyhealth.net](http://www.miamcountyhealth.net) or call 937-440-8105.