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H1N1 (Swine) Flu confirmed in four students

Table of Human Cases of H1N1 (Swine) Flu Infection

	Confirmed Cases	Deaths
Sarasota County	12	2

The Sarasota County Health Department has received notification of H1N1 (Swine) Flu in four students who attended a summer camp program at the Ringling College of Art and Design in Sarasota. A fifth student was also tested for the virus, and as of now, test results are pending. All of these individuals reside outside of Sarasota County. Health Department officials have worked closely with the staff at the College to contain the outbreak. Since influenza illness in Sarasota County is now approaching the same level as seen during the peak of regular flu season, we urge everyone to take precautions to avoid the flu," said William Heymann, M.D., F.A.C.E.P., medical executive director for the Sarasota County Health Department.

As a reminder, people experiencing cough, fever of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher and sore throat, possibly along with diarrhea and vomiting, should contact their healthcare provider to discuss whether they need to be seen in their office, emergency department or stay home.

Those with respiratory illness should stay home, and away from work, day care or summer programs to avoid spreading infections, including influenza. Postpone travel plans if you or family members become ill. Health officials advise that you stay home for a week after symptoms begin or 24 hours after you are symptom-free whichever is longer. Everyone is reminded to take these additional **actions** daily:

- Avoid close contact with people who are coughing or otherwise appear ill.
- Wash hands often with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand cleaners to reduce the spread of respiratory illness.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it, and then wash hands.

For more information, visit www.sarasotahealth.org. For flu information in Sarasota County, call the Flu Information Line at 941-861-2800 or visit a health kiosk at all libraries and Senior Friendship Centers throughout Sarasota County.

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