
HEALTH DEPARTMENT
NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 9, 2009

For additional information contact:

Bridie Bereza at (616) 632-7110 or bridie.bereza@kentcountymi.gov

Kent County reports fourth death associated with novel H1N1 influenza

Victim had multiple underlying conditions

(Grand Rapids, MI) – The Kent County Health Department (KCHD) received word this week that a Kent County man in his 50s is the latest death associated with novel H1N1 influenza. The man, who was hospitalized, had multiple underlying conditions.

“While public health tends to focus on numbers and figures related to large populations, our thoughts today are with a much smaller group of people – the family and friends of this individual,” said Cathy Raevsky, Administrative Health Officer for KCHD. “Our hearts go out to them.”

This is the fourth death reported in Kent County associated with novel H1N1 influenza. Most of the victims had other underlying health conditions. While the number of deaths associated with this flu is not alarming, it is a sobering reminder that flu can be serious. There are several things that people can do to avoid getting sick, but the number one way to avoid the flu is to get vaccinated. KCHD is offering H1N1 vaccine for any Kent County resident who would like to be vaccinated this Saturday, December 12, at two of its Grand Rapids clinics. Vaccination is by appointment only. Appointments may be made online at www.stickittotheflu.com. They also may be made by phone at 2-1-1 or (616) 459-2255. As of 11:30 a.m. today, only 2,273 appointments remain.

“We will continue to monitor and report flu case counts and deaths in our community,” said Raevsky. People can visit www.stickittotheflu.com for a comparison of this flu season versus last season and other information.

###

KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to the whole of Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 260 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates four satellite clinics located in Wyoming, Kentwood, Rockford, and the Westside of Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD and our services, visit www.accesskent.com/health. Follow us at twitter.com/kchd and search for us on facebook.

700 FULLER AVE. NE, GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49503