



## Medford Township Office of Emergency Management

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**For Immediate Release:**

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### *Medford Township Prepares for Swine Flu*

**Medford, NJ-** The Medford Township Office of Emergency Management is urging residents to take personal preventive actions in light of the recent public health alert issued by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services regarding the swine flu (H1N1) virus. The primary goals of emergency management and public health services at this time are to reduce transmission and illness severity, and provide information to assist in addressing the challenges posed by this newly identified influenza virus.

At this time, the emphasis is on encouraging people to practice good health hygiene, including frequent hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes, and staying home from school or work when sick. Medford Township Emergency Management Coordinator Lt. Jeffrey Wagner stated that minimizing exposure to healthy individuals is most important to controlling this illness. He added, "It is important for individuals who exhibit signs or symptoms of the illness to not go out in the community during the period of infection, which is about seven days, and then stay home at least one additional day. This includes avoiding work, school, religious services, and other social events while ill."

The Medford Township Office of Emergency Management has an emergency operations plan in place to deal with public health emergencies. The O.E.M. works closely with the Burlington County Office of Emergency Management and the County Health Department. In the event that medication needs to be distributed on a widespread basis, the Township has plans in cooperation with the health department to implement a point of distribution for all residents.

As of April 27, 2009 the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services had identified five possible cases of swine flu in New Jersey, and is awaiting confirmatory testing at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). All five individuals have mild forms of the flu and are recovering at home.

For more information, visit [www.cdc.gov/swineflu](http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu) or [www.nj.gov/health](http://www.nj.gov/health).

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