



# **NOVEL H1N1 INFLUENZA (SWINE FLU)**

## **COMMUNICATION POLICY**

### **Policy for Release of Information Concerning Novel H1N1 Influenza Cases**

The North Dakota Department of Health is charged with protecting the public's health, while at the same time protecting the identity and the privacy of people who are infected with diseases. The following list identifies the information the Department of Health will release to the media and/or public concerning novel H1N1 influenza (swine flu) cases reported in North Dakota.

#### **Confirmed H1N1 Influenza Cases**

- Number of cases per county
- Number of males and females statewide
- Number hospitalized statewide
- Number of cases by age group statewide
  - Younger than 10
  - Ages 10 to 19
  - Ages 20 to 29
  - Ages 30 to 39
  - Ages 40 to 49
  - Ages 50 to 59
  - Age 60 and older

#### **H1N1 Influenza Deaths**

- Region of the state in which the person resided
- Age group of the person
- The person's gender
- If the person had any underlying medical conditions

Certain outbreak situations may require the department to release more specific information about the location of cases in order to ensure implementation of appropriate public health interventions. This decision will be made on a case-by-case basis.

If you have any questions, please contact Loreeta Canton or Stacy Eberl, North Dakota Department of Health Office of Public Information, at 701.328.2372.

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