



Charlie Crist
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte-Ros, M.D., M.P.H.
State Surgeon General

PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Andrea Dopico, Epidemiologist
Pinellas County Health Department
727-824-6900, ext 11446 (media only)

First Confirmed H1N1 (Swine) Flu Death in Pinellas County

ST. PETERSBURG, FLORIDA -- The Pinellas County Health Department received notification of the first laboratory-confirmed H1N1 (Swine) flu related death in the county today.

The patient was a 36 year old male who had an underlying health condition.

As of Wednesday August 5, Florida had 41 laboratory-confirmed deaths attributed to the H1N1 (Swine) flu virus.

"We extend our deepest sympathies to family and friends for their loss," said Claude Dharamraj, MD, MPH, FAAP, director of the Pinellas County Health Department.

"We all need to make sure that we are continuing to use the recommended precautions to avoid spreading infections. Wash hands often with soap and water. Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze and avoid close contact with people who are coughing or otherwise appear ill," stated Dr. Dharamraj.

For more information about the H1N1 (Swine) flu virus please visit:

The Pinellas County Health Department, www.pinellashealth.com or call the H1N1 (Swine) flu information line at 727-824-6964.

The Florida Department of Health, <http://www.doh.state.fl.us/DEMO/php/FluInfo.htm>

The Centers for Disease Prevention and Control, <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>

The World Health Organization, (WHO), <http://www.who.int/en/>

Flu.gov, <http://www.flu.gov/>

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www.PinellasHealth.com