

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DPHSS OFFICIALS CONFIRMS FIRST H1N1 DEATH AND 6 MORE H1N1 CASES

16 cases; 1 death

The Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS) officials today announced the island's first fatality related to the H1N1 flu virus. Confirmatory lab results received by DPHSS officials late yesterday afternoon, confirmed that a 26 year-old female, with a pre-existing medical condition died of complications related to the H1N1 flu virus.

"The Lt. Governor and I offer our condolences to the friends and family of this young woman," said Governor Camacho. I ask for the public's sensitivity in honoring the privacy of the family as they mourn the loss of their loved one. I want to further reassure our community that we will continue to work closely with DPHSS, and our local and federal partners to monitor Guam's confirmed cases and to take the necessary steps to protect our people."

DPHSS officials did report that initial rapid flu tests on the patient were negative, however, as a precautionary measure based on the individual's medical history, a flu sample was sent to an off-island confirmatory lab for further testing. Test results received from that sample came back positive for the H1N1 virus.

As of today, health officials are reporting six (6) additional cases, bringing Guam's total of H1N1 confirmed cases to sixteen (16) with one (1) death. Of the newly reported cases, one (1) individual did have recent travel history while the other five (5) had no travel history or contact with any of the previously confirmed cases.

The DPHSS and our community partners will thoroughly investigate the circumstances of this case to determine which factors were important in the patient's death as well as what lessons can be learned from this incident. With the number of confirmed cases steadily increasing, DPHSS officials strongly recommend that island residents exercise the following precautions.

- Those who are experiencing prolonged flu-like symptoms for more than seven days should seek medical attention.
- Those with pre-existing medical conditions experiencing flu-like symptoms, contact their doctor.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- Stay home if you are sick for 7 days after your symptoms begin or until you have been symptom-free for 24 hours, whichever is longer. This is to keep from infecting others and spreading the virus further.

For more information, please visit the following website at www.flu.gov; the Department of Public Health and Social Services website at www.dphss.guam.gov; or Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense website at www.guamhs.org. You may also call the Information Line at 735-H1N1 (4161).