



John Della Bosca MLC
Minister for Health
Minister for the Central Coast
Leader of the Government in the Legislative Council

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Swine flu update

NSW Minister for Health, John Della Bosca, has reassured the community that there are no confirmed cases of swine influenza in New South Wales.

Mr Della Bosca said NSW Health is carefully monitoring the situation and is in close contact with the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing to issue public health advice as it becomes available.

“There are national processes in place for monitoring disease threats from overseas. Australia has good communicable disease surveillance and control systems in place to detect and respond to outbreaks of illness,” Mr Della Bosca said.

“NSW Health has notified emergency departments and general practitioners across the state to be on alert for any cases of this strain of flu in travellers returning from overseas.

“I would urge anyone with flu-like symptoms such as fever, cough and fatigue, who has returned from overseas within the last seven days to contact their local public health unit, GP or emergency department.”

NSW Chief Health Officer, Dr Kerry Chant, said state Public Health Units have followed up several reports of influenza-like illness in recently returned travellers, but no cases of this strain of influenza have been identified at this stage.

“New South Wales is performing enhanced surveillance for cases of swine influenza through our real-time emergency department surveillance system,” Dr Chant said.

Sixteen people with influenza-like illness have been followed up by NSW public health units, and four meet the definition of a suspected case of swine influenza. We are arranging testing for these four cases.

“Two people who did not meet the case definition were tested as a precautionary measure. We are awaiting the results of those tests.”

NSW Health advises the community to be aware and alert to flu symptoms if recently returning from affected countries overseas.

As the situation evolves, NSW Health will continue to work closely with the Commonwealth Department of Health to keep the community informed.

Further information is available at the NSW Health website
http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/publichealth/swine_flu.asp

Media contact: Paul Scott 9228 4777 or 0438 456 389