

**[Moderator speaking]** We all know that we can avoid getting sick with some pretty common sense precautions and now it is more important than ever as we are getting reports of Swine Flu in the United States. Let's join Public Information Officer Stefany Strong for this special report about the swine flu.

**[Introduction music playing, graphics on screen showing "community health matters" text, red heart beat lines and text "health information with our community in mind" text.]**

**[Public Information Officer Stefany Strong]** What is Swine Flu?

- Swine Influenza (swine flu) is a respiratory disease of pigs caused by type A influenza that regularly cause outbreaks of influenza among pigs.
- Swine flu viruses do not normally infect humans, however, human infections with swine flu do occur, and cases of human-to-human spread of swine flu viruses have been documented.

The Volusia County Health Department is taking a proactive approach by encouraging the public to follow flu prevention tips and by enhancing influenza surveillance in the medical community.

**[Paul Minshew, Volusia County Health Department Environmental Health Manager, Emergency Response Team]**

Our Phert team which stands for Public health Emergency Response Team is a group of different disciplines from within the health department. We have our medical providers, our doctors, we have nurses, we have environmental health staff as well as our public health preparedness individuals meet routinely to discuss any type of public health hazards that may be facing the citizens of our county or florida. And we discuss things and pan flu, swine flu, is definitely one of topics that we have been preparing for for over 2 years or more.

**[Public Information Officer Stefany Strong]**

Prevention Tips:

- People experiencing cough, fever and fatigue, possibly along with diarrhea and vomiting, should contact their physician.
- As always, people with respiratory illness should stay home from work or school to avoid spreading infections, including influenza, to others in the community.
- Avoid close contact with people who are coughing or otherwise appear ill.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Wash hands frequently to lessen the spread of respiratory illness.

**[Paul Minshew, Volusia County Health Department Environmental Health Manager, Emergency Response Team]**

Hand washing is extremely important. Wash your hands frequently, [video of hand washing demonstration] wash them properly using soap, paper towels and make sure that you wash them for at least 10 to 15 seconds with good vigorous friction and use paper towels to dry your hands.

**[Public Information Officer Stefany Strong]** The Volusia County Health Department's Public Health Preparedness Team is taking a number of measures to enhance influenza surveillance in the medical community:

- Volusia County doctors are being alerted to conduct increased influenza surveillance which includes testing patients with sudden onset high fever, cough, sore throat and other flu symptoms.
- Medical professionals are encouraged to follow swine flu guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Medical professionals should send suspect specimens to state laboratories for identification.

Swine influenza viruses are not transmitted by food and a person cannot get swine influenza from eating pork products.

The infections appear to spread from person to person. Drugs called antivirals can reduce the consequences of contracting the flu, if taken early.

For more info please visit [www.volusiahealth.com](http://www.volusiahealth.com) or [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov). You may also call the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at 1-800-CDC-INFO. For Volusia Magazine, and on behalf of the Volusia County Health Department, Your Guide To Better Health, I'm Public Information Officer, Stefany Strong."

**[Moderator]** Stefany Strong will keep you updated on the Swine Flu updated situation on this program when warranted. For more information you can visit the Volusia County Health Department's at it's website [www.volusiahealth.com](http://www.volusiahealth.com)

**[Logo of County of Volusia with music playing]**