

Florida sees third case of swine flu in Orange County

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State health officials confirmed a case of swine flu in Orange County on Sunday, bringing the total number of people with the virus statewide to three. The third case is a 14-year-old girl visiting from Mexico who has returned to her home country.

In an "abundance of caution," Hillsborough County closed three schools for a thorough cleaning after some students came down with flu symptoms. The threat of swine flu also altered Communion ceremonies for local Catholics and kept some from shaking hands during Mass.

Sarasota, Manatee and Charlotte counties do not have any confirmed cases of the virus, though Charlotte and Manatee counties have samples pending with the state lab in Tampa and should get the results of those tests this week.

Counties with probable cases, according to state health officials, are Alachua, Pinellas, Indian River, Okeechobee, Lee, Clay, Palm Beach, Miami-Dade and Hillsborough. Hillsborough has five suspected cases; Palm Beach and Miami-Dade each have two and the remaining counties on the list have one probable case apiece. Officials announced Florida's first confirmed swine flu cases on Friday, an 11-year-old Lee County boy and a 17-year-old girl in Broward County.

According to area health officials, doctors send samples to the state in cases where flu symptoms, such as high fever, are coupled with other risks such as travel histories or contact with people who have traveled to areas that have experienced outbreaks of swine flu, such as Mexico.

Sarasota County had no patients meeting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention criteria, so no samples had been sent to the state lab as of Sunday. The Manatee County Health Department sent two samples from people experiencing flu-like symptoms on Friday. Results are expected this week.

The **Charlotte County Health Department** has sent nine samples for testing. Five have proved negative for the strain. The Diocese of Venice is also working to protect parishioners from the virus. The diocese was not giving wine to congregants on Sunday during the sacrament of Communion in which parishioners share a single cup. The diocese also encouraged congregants not to shake hands with one another. The Rev. Manuel Zuzarte, of St. Martha Catholic Church in Sarasota, said despite the guidelines from the diocese, many parishioners shook hands anyway, including with him, though he would not initiate the contact. "I just wait until they put out their hand," he said.