

Fourth case of swine flu confirmed

By JASON WITZ STAFF WRITER

A fourth case of swine flu was confirmed in Charlotte County on Thursday, although health officials stressed the virus was likely related to a previous case announced earlier this week.

Officials say the 14-year-old boy contracted the H1N1 flu strain from his younger sister, but his symptoms have since improved. He was released from Peace River Regional Medical Center on Thursday afternoon.

Charlotte County had its first confirmed case earlier this week when a 7-year-old girl — the sister of the teen — was diagnosed with the virus. Since then, two others, a 6-year-old boy and a 51-year-old woman, have also been infected.

Officials are working to identify the source of the virus, as the latter two cases are unrelated.

Dr. Mark Asperilla, a local infectious disease specialist, first treated the 7-year-old girl last weekend, the same time her brother, was experiencing symptoms.

“Basically, it’s spreading among family members,” he said. During testing, the boy was hospitalized as a precaution. Asperilla said the girl’s condition has worsened to the point that she was sent to All Children’s Hospital in St. Petersburg for treatment. Asperilla has been giving lectures on swine flu lately to help raise awareness, as he expects a second, stronger cycle of the strain to hit around October.

“This is still very serious,” he said.

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FLU INFORMATION

In children, emergency warning signs that need urgent medical attention include:

- Fast breathing or trouble breathing
- Bluish or gray skin color
- Not drinking enough fluids
- Severe or persistent vomiting
- Not waking up or not interacting
- Being so irritable that the child does not want to be held
- Flu-like symptoms improve

but then return with fever and worse cough

In adults, emergency warning signs that need urgent medical attention include:

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen
- Sudden dizziness
- Confusion
- Severe or persistent vomiting
- Flu-like symptoms improve but then return with fever and worse cough

The symptoms of novel H1N1 flu virus in people are similar to the symptoms of seasonal flu and include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. A significant number of people who have been infected with this virus also have reported diarrhea and vomiting. Also, like seasonal flu, severe illnesses and death has occurred as a result of illness associated with this virus.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

TEXT: Flu Information

In children, emergency warning signs that need urgent medical attention include: fast breathing or trouble breathing, bluish or gray skin color, not drinking enough fluids, severe or persistent vomiting, not waking up or not interacting, being so irritable that the child does not want to be held, flu-like symptoms improve but worsen then return with fever and worse cough.

In adults, emergency warning signs that need urgent medical attention include: difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen, sudden dizziness, confusion, severe or persistent vomiting, flu-like symptoms improve but then return with fever and worse cough.

The symptoms of H1N1 flu virus in people are similar to the symptoms of seasonal flu and include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. A significant number of people who have been infected with this virus also have reported diarrhea and vomiting. Also, like seasonal flue, sever illnesses and death has occurred as a result of illness associated with this virus.

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