

5th swine flu case found

YMCA officials said a child in their day care was reported sick

By NEIL HUGHES STAFF WRITER

Charlotte County's fifth swine flu case was confirmed this week, as a 4-year-old boy was reported to have the H1N1 virus.

Wini Schumacer, vice president of operations for the YMCA of Charlotte County, said Friday that a child in the day-care program at the center on Edgewater Drive was confirmed by doctors to have contracted swine flu.

The boy was last at the day care on June 26. After he missed a few days, YMCA officials contacted his parents to find out why he was absent.

When the parents told officials their son was being tested for swine flu, the rooms and toys at the day-care center were bleached and cleaned, in accordance with recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"That's something that we do weekly anyway," Schumacer said. "It has to be done."

Thursday, the child's parents contacted YMCA officials to confirm that their son had tested positive for the H1N1 virus.

Parents of children at the center have been notified, and Schumacer said all of them were understanding.

"It's a flu," she said, "and you take the same precautions, as you would with a flu."

Four cases of swine flu were previously confirmed in Charlotte County, all within the last two weeks.

The last confirmed case was a 14-year-old boy who contracted the H1N1 flu strain from his younger sister. His symptoms improved and he was released from Peace River Regional Medical Center last week.

Charlotte County had its first confirmed case earlier last 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, were infected.

Officials with the [Charlotte County Health Department](#) could not be reached on Friday, as local government offices were closed in recognition of Independence Day.

No children at the YMCA Edgewater Drive day-care center have reported any illness since the 4-year-old boy stopped attending on June 26.

"This is the time of the year," Schumacer said, "we take it serious no matter what it is when kids get sick."

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