



## Charlotte woman with swine flu dies

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**CHARLOTTE COUNTY:** A 46-year-old Port Charlotte woman with the H1N1 swine flu virus has died, according to the Charlotte County Sheriff's Office.

Authorities say Cheryl Ann McCabe was found dead in her bedroom on September 1.

"It's awful - such a young age. Cause you thought you would be burying the older folks, not your sisters you know," said McCabe's sister Colleen Barnes.

The health department says the cause of death has not been determined by the medical examiner's office as the woman had a chronic disease.

This is the first death of a person in Charlotte County with swine flu.

Deputies were concerned after she died because her boyfriend 42-year-old Raymond Bei died in the same house just three days earlier. They thought the home might be contaminated.

"It was horrible the day that it happened. Because you're in mourning and they kicked me out of my house to sit out here in the heat all day long," said Barnes.

The virus has killed three people in Lee County since April, when the first cases of H1N1 were identified.

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is urging people with chronic pre-existing conditions to be especially vigilant to prevent against infection.

The CDC says the best way to reduce risk of contracting H1N1 is to frequently wash your hands, stay home if you are feeling sick, sneeze and cough into your sleeve and keep a distance of at least six feet from others.

Officials with the Charlotte County Health Department say the sad news should not alarm anyone. Just make sure to wash your hands, cough into your sleeve and stay home if you're sick.

By [Brandon Gunnoe](#)