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MEDIA NOTE: The parents of the affected school have been notified via a recorded message from the school principal.

Third confirmed case of H1N1 (swine) flu in Sarasota County

Sarasota County Health Department officials announced a third confirmed case of H1N1 (swine) influenza. This case involves a six-year-old female. The child, who is a first-grade student of Taylor Ranch Elementary in Venice, was not in school during any date of her illness. She returned to school on Monday, May 11. There are no plans for any school closures. Last Friday, May 8, health officials announced two confirmed cases of H1N1 (swine flu) in children, ages two and 10. Local health officials are continually monitoring for any additional cases of influenza-like illness in the county. "We expect to see more confirmed cases of H1N1 (swine) flu," says Scott Pritchard, county epidemiologist. Although these illnesses have been mild, people are urged to follow these precautions:

- Wash hands often with soap and water or use alcohol-based hand cleaners to reduce the spread of respiratory illness.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or use the inside of your elbow. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Avoid close contact with people who are coughing or otherwise appear ill.
- People with a sore throat, cough, fever of 100 degrees or higher and fatigue, possibly along with diarrhea and vomiting, should contact their health care provider.

If you think you have influenza, please call your health care provider and discuss whether you need to be seen in their office or emergency department or stay home.

For more information, visit www.sarasotahealth.org. For flu information in Sarasota County, call the Flu Information Line at 941-861-2800. For further information in Florida, call toll-free, 1-800-342-3557, or the State of Florida TDD at 1-800- 226-4329. You may also visit a health kiosk at all libraries and Senior Friendship Centers throughout Sarasota County.

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