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

Fourth case of H1N1 (swine) flu in Sarasota County

Sarasota County Health Department officials announced the fourth confirmed case of H1N1 (swine) flu in Sarasota County. This case involves a 16-year-old male who is in 10th grade at Venice High School. He was not in school at any time during his illness, and is fully recovered. He returned to school May 11th. Parents of Venice High School students have been informed through the School Board's Connect-Ed messaging system. There are no plans for any school closures.

Scott Pritchard, county epidemiologist says, "We expect to see more confirmed cases of H1N1 (swine) flu." 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, 1-800-775-8039, or visit a health kiosk at all libraries and Senior Friendship Centers throughout Sarasota County.

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