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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HEALTH OFFICIALS REPORT FIRST H1N1 DEATH IN SOLANO

A 53 year old Solano County man with a confirmed case of H1N1 has died. His death is the first in the county involving a person with the virus, county health officials confirmed Thursday.

“We are saddened by this man’s death,” said Solano Public Health Officer, Ronald W. Chapman, MD, MPH. “He had no other identified major health conditions.”

Health officials will not be releasing his city of residence or his identity in order to protect patient confidentiality.

Public Health officials remind the community that even though most of the H1N1 cases in Solano County and the state have been mild or moderate, all flu viruses can be deadly and everyone should remain vigilant in helping to prevent the spread of H1N1 and seasonal flu.

There have been at least 16 deaths with H1N1 infection in California to date, and at least 110 deaths in the United States. “Unfortunately, similar to regular seasonal flu which kills an estimated 36,000 people in the United States each year, we anticipate that we will see more illnesses and deaths from this novel H1N1 virus,” said Dr. Chapman.

In Solano County to date, there are 11 confirmed H1N1 cases. It is estimated that there are thousands of cases throughout the State, with the vast majority of these cases having mild to moderate illness, and full patient recovery. Due to the high demand on laboratory services, only cases involving hospitalizations and fatalities are currently being laboratory tested.

A vaccine for the novel H1N1 virus is currently in production with expected distribution in fall 2009. Solano Public Health will provide the community with specific information as it becomes available.

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In the meantime, everyone can help prevent the spread of H1N1 by:

- Washing hands regularly with soap and water;
- Coughing or sneezing into sleeve or elbow;
- If you have flu-like symptoms, staying home from school or work for at least 7 days from the onset of symptoms or until fully recovered, whichever is longer; and
- Contacting your health care provider if you or your family member has flu-like symptoms.

For more information about the H1N1 virus in Solano County, visit [www.solanocounty.com](http://www.solanocounty.com), click on Departments, Public Health or visit [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) or [www.who.int](http://www.who.int).

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