



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**For additional information contact:**

**Lisa LaPlante at (616) 632-7182 or [Lisa.LaPlante@kentcountymi.gov](mailto:Lisa.LaPlante@kentcountymi.gov)**

## **H3N2v Influenza Virus Identified in Michigan Child**

GRAND RAPIDS – The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) says it has identified its first H3N2v influenza infection in a child from Washtenaw County. The child was reportedly around swine at the Ingham County Fair on August 1, 2012. The illness was mild and did not require hospitalization. This flu typically does not transmit from pigs to humans, but the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has seen a spike in cases, from 12 cases in 2011 to 154 cases so far this year. The CDC will be conducting additional testing to confirm the infection.

The Kent County Health Department (KCHD) has the following recommendations if you are around pigs:

- Wash hands often with soap and running water before and after exposure to pigs. Use an alcohol-based hand rub if soap and water are not available.
- Do not eat, drink or put things in your mouth in pig areas.
- Don't take food, drink, toys, pacifiers, strollers, spill-proof cups or baby bottles into areas where pigs are kept.
- If you are experiencing flu-like symptoms, avoid contact with pigs for 7 days after symptoms begin or until you are fever-free for one day without using fever-reducing medications, whichever is longer.
- If your pigs show signs of illness, call your veterinarian.
- Young children, the elderly, pregnant women, and people with chronic medical conditions could suffer serious complications from the flu. These individuals should avoid exposure to pigs and swine barns, especially if sick pigs have been identified.
- If you must work around pigs that are infected with influenza viruses, take protective measures, including wearing protective clothing, gloves, and masks that cover your mouth and nose. Always cover coughs and sneezes, and wash your hands often.

H3N2v Influenza does not get passed to people by eating properly handled and prepared pork (pig meat) or other products derived from pigs. This year's seasonal flu vaccine does not protect against H3N2v, but KCHD recommends getting vaccinated to protect against other variants of the flu. More information and national weekly case updates are available at

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swineflu/influenza-variant-viruses-h3n2v.htm>.

If you have questions or concerns, please contact the KCHD at (616) 632-7182.

KCHD has been in the business of providing health services to Kent County since 1931. The Health Department is home to nearly 260 employees including public health nurses, sanitarians, health educators, technicians, public health administrators, and specialized staff at the Kent County Animal Shelter. The Health Department operates one main clinic and four satellite clinics located in Wyoming, Kentwood, Rockford, and Grand Rapids. To learn more about KCHD services, visit [www.accesskent.com/health](http://www.accesskent.com/health).