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SOLANO HEALTH OFFICIALS REPORT EIGHTH H1N1 DEATH

A Solano County woman in her twenties, with underlying health conditions, has died of H1N1 flu county health officials announced Wednesday. Her death is the eighth of a Solano County resident involving the H1N1 flu virus since the virus was first identified in the spring of 2009. Health officials will not be releasing her city of residence or further details in order to protect patient confidentiality.

“We are saddened by this young woman’s death, and our thoughts go out to her family and friends,” said Solano Deputy Public Health Officer, Michael Stacey, MD,

“While we are not seeing as many influenza cases as we were in the fall, there are still sporadic cases of flu circulating, and most of these circulating cases are H1N1,” said Dr. Stacey. Public Health officials remind the community to practice good hygiene by covering coughs and frequently washing hands. The majority of the H1N1 cases in Solano County and the nation have been mild. However, H1N1 flu can cause serious complications and can be deadly in a small percentage of infected individuals.

The H1N1 flu vaccine is widely available, including free at the Home and Garden Show, April 16-18 at the Nut Tree complex in Vacaville. Public Health officials strongly recommend that people get themselves and their children vaccinated if they have not already done so. Children age 9 and under require two doses of the vaccine to be protected from the virus. In addition, people with flu-like symptoms are advised to stay home from work or school until they are free of fever for 24 hours, without taking fever-reducing medications such as Ibuprofen or Acetaminophen.

For more information about the H1N1 virus and where to find free vaccine in Solano County, visit www.solanocounty.com/H1N1, or visit www.cdc.gov or www.who.int.

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