

Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency

February 14, 2014

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Flu Death Reported

(Coldwater, MI). The Branch-Hillsdale-St. Joseph Community Health Agency reports that a second jurisdictional death associated with this year's flu has occurred. The death occurred in a St. Joseph County man, over the age of 60 years, who tested positive for Influenza A/H1N1. A/H1N1 is the predominant influenza strain making the rounds this year, according to the health department. The victim also suffered from several other chronic conditions, which may have complicated his recovery. The first flu-associated death occurred in January at an out-of-state facility to an elderly woman who resided in Hillsdale County.

Steve Todd, Health Officer for the tri-county health department, indicates "We don't know if this person had received an influenza shot. But we do know that immunization is the best defense against the flu."

Some pharmacies are still providing flu shots. Flu vaccine is also still available at the health department. Call your local office to schedule an appointment to get your shot today. A vaccine given today will provide protection against the strains it contains for up to a year.

The health department indicates that it is starting to see a decrease in the number of influenza and influenza-like cases being reported by health care providers, schools and day cares. Mr. Todd added "In spite of recent declines, we know that influenza can still peak as late as March or April. So we continue to encouraging people to make sure they are vaccinated."

To learn more about seasonal flu, H1N1 or the immunization clinics, check out our website at www.bhsj.org.

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