



Media Contact: Joan Lebow
Director, Public Relations and Marketing
973-660-3144
Joan.Lebow@atlanticehealth.org

Atlantic Health
P.O. Box 1905
Morristown, NJ 07962-1905

For Immediate Release

ATLANTIC HEALTH ACTIVATES FLU PREVENTION PLANS **No swine flu cases reported in NJ, but health care system educates employees, public**

MORRISTOWN, NJ APRIL 27, 2009 - In response to reported cases of swine influenza internationally and in the United States, Atlantic Health is taking proactive measures to inform employees, medical staff, patients and visitors to its facilities about the disease and ways to prevent its potential spread. Although there have been no reported cases in New Jersey, Atlantic Health has initiated its robust flu prevention and response plan. Atlantic Health owns and operates Morristown Memorial Hospital and Overlook Hospital in Summit, NJ, as well as several other facilities in Morris and Union counties.

“For the past several years, Atlantic Health has engaged in a long-term flu planning process to be ready for an eventuality such as this,” said Joseph A. Trunfio, president and CEO, Atlantic Health. “We are making every effort to prevent the spread of infection, and have appropriate medical supplies and communication plans in place to educate employees and the public.”

Plans include signage with precautionary information at the entrances to each of the facilities. Atlantic Health is using the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJHSS) as its lead sources of information, and has provided links to the organizations' web sites. Information about the disease is being disseminated throughout Atlantic Health, including to physicians, through the Intranet and other communication tools. Check the [press release section of Atlantic Health's web site](#) for more information.

The symptoms of swine flu are similar to seasonal flu and include fever, lack of appetite, coughing and fatigue. Some people have also reported having a sore throat, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea.

According to the CDC, the following are everyday actions you can take to stay healthy:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, and throw the tissue in the trash after it's used
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people. If you get sick, stay home from work or school and limit contact with others.

(more)

The CDC is advising individuals to call their family physician if they have traveled within the last week to Mexico or the areas within the United States where cases have been reported and they have symptoms consistent with those described above.

Atlantic Health is working closely with local, state, and federal health organizations, and the local health care community. For more details about swine flu prevention and preparedness, visit www.cdc.gov/swineflu.

ABOUT ATLANTIC HEALTH

Atlantic Health (atlantichhealth.org) is one of the largest non-profit health care systems in New Jersey and includes Overlook Hospital in Summit and Morristown Memorial Hospital. The two hospitals have a combined total of 1,197 licensed beds and more than 2,200 affiliated physicians providing a wide array of health care services to the five million residents of 11 Northern and Central New Jersey counties. Specialty services include cardiovascular care, neurosciences, pediatrics, cancer care; orthopedics, diabetes care, gastroenterology, trauma and emergency medicine, behavioral health, minimally invasive surgery radiology and advanced diagnostics, women's health and maternal fetal medicine, home and hospice care and rehabilitation services. In 2009, Atlantic Health opened the new Gagnon Cardiovascular Institute, a 200,000 square-foot flagship facility located at Morristown Memorial that will consolidate Atlantic Health's cardiovascular services. The Gagnon Cardiovascular Institute includes services at Morristown Memorial and Overlook hospitals.

Atlantic Health is a Major Clinical Research Affiliate with The Cancer Institute of New Jersey. Atlantic Health's hospitals are accredited by The Joint Commission. Atlantic Health is the primary academic and clinical affiliate in New Jersey of Mount Sinai School of Medicine and The Mount Sinai Hospital.

###