



Greater Kalamazoo Area Chapter
*Serving the people of Allegan, Cass, Kalamazoo
and St. Joseph Counties*
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Public Service Announcement

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For Immediate Release

SWINE FLU, PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT; AMERICAN RED CROSS URGES FAMILIES, SCHOOLS, BUSINESSES TO FOLLOW KALAMAZOO COUNTY HEALTH and COMMUNITY SERVICES GUIDELINES

Public Should Follow Guidelines for Staying Healthy at www.kalcounty.com/hcs
and www.greaterkzooredcross.org

KALAMAZOO, MI – April 27, 2009 — Human cases of Swine Influenza (Flu) have been identified in the United States and Internationally. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) activated its Emergency Operations Center to coordinate the response to this emerging health threat and the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security has declared a public health emergency in the United States. This type of emergency declaration is standard procedure. The public health emergency declaration is preparatory to enable a swift pandemic response should it become necessary.

Currently the American Red Cross is monitoring the situation and we are in close contact with the Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services Department. The Greater Kalamazoo Area Chapter of the American Red Cross is urging families and individuals throughout its four-county service area to stay informed of the changing situation and to follow the guidelines of county public health officials.

People seeking the latest information are urged to visit the website of the Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services Department at www.kalcounty.com/hcs or to call the HCS Hotline at (269) 373-5300. For general information on seasonal flu and how to stay healthy people may visit www.greaterkzooredcross.org and follow the link to the [Seasonal Flu Checklist](#).

About the American Red Cross: *The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and counsels victims of disasters; provides nearly half of the nation's blood supply; teaches lifesaving skills; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a charitable organization – not a government agency- and depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its humanitarian mission. For more information on the Greater Kalamazoo Area Chapter of the American Red Cross, please visit www.greaterkzooredcross.org.*

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