



Allen County Health Department

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N E W S

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Allen County Already Prepared for WHO Pandemic Level 6 Declaration

Lima - On June 11, 2009, the World Health Organization (WHO) raised the worldwide pandemic alert level to Phase 6. This means that a global pandemic is underway and there are now community level outbreaks in multiple parts of the world.

“We were not surprised by the declaration. It doesn’t change what we have been doing here to prepare for and respond to this public health challenge,” says David Rosebrock, Allen County Health Commissioner. “We continue to take this seriously. We are still working with our state and local health partners, the provider community, and local agencies and organizations. At this point, it’s important for residents to be aware of what’s going on and be thinking ahead.”

Health officials are encouraging people to continue taking every day safety precautions such as covering coughs and sneezes, washing your hands, and staying home if you’re sick. The Allen County Health Department is also using this declaration to stress the importance of planning ahead.

People need to be prepared to stay home for a week or so if they are ill. Officials recommend developing a family emergency plan as a precaution. This should include storing a supply of extra food, medicines, and other essential supplies. Information and guidance can be found at

<http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/individual/checklist.html>.

“State and international borders don’t matter at this point. The bottom line is that this new virus is among us all. The Health Department will remain flexible in order to respond in the best way possible to the changing situation,” concluded Rosebrock.

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