

Second Case of H1N1 Flu Confirmed in Monroe County

(May 20, 2009) - Monroe County health officials were informed today that a second person has been confirmed to have novel H1N1 flu. The individual traveled outside our community earlier in the month and subsequently became ill. Based upon the timing of the travel, it is not possible to determine where the person contracted the illness. The individual has fully recovered. We are following up on any close contacts.

“We expected to see more cases, so this is no surprise. We continue to submit tests to the state laboratory. The more cases we test, the more cases we are likely to find,” said Monroe County Health Director Dr. Andrew Doniger. “While we will likely see additional isolated cases over the coming weeks, the thing we are on-guard for is if the illness begins to spread widely in our community, or if the illness begins to shift from being mild to severe,” Doniger added.

Nationally, there are now over 5,000 cases in all but 3 states. There have been 299 cases in New York State. By way of comparison, Erie County has had 3 cases, Onondaga County 6 cases, and New York City 201.

Health officials continue to stress prevention:

- Cover your cough (with a tissue or by coughing into your sleeve)
- Wash hands frequently with soap and warm water
- Stay home from work or school if sick with fever and respiratory symptoms

The New York State Health Department continues to maintain a hotline for persons with questions. The number is 1.800.808.1987. Information is also posted on the Monroe County Web site: MonroeCounty.gov.