



Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services
HEALTH ALERT NETWORK
Advisory



TO: Primary care providers and emergency rooms in Washington, Saunders, Dodge, Burt, and Cuming counties

FROM: Thomas J. Safranek, M.D.
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RE: **Pediatric Influenza Death**

DATE: February 25, 2016

A child from the Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department jurisdiction that includes Burt, Cuming, Stanton, and Madison counties, who also spent time in a childcare in Dodge County recently passed away due to a severe viral upper respiratory infection (laryngo-tracheo bronchitis). Testing has confirmed influenza A (2009 H1N1), along with several other respiratory viruses. Autopsy specimens are being sent to CDC for additional testing to further clarify the cause of death.

All influenza-related deaths in children are reportable. Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department and Three Rivers Public Health Departments in conjunction with the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services are working to complete the case report.

If you receive inquiries related to this patient, we recommend continued deployment of seasonal influenza recommendations, including the influenza vaccine. CDC has published recommendations for reducing influenza illness for children in schools and childcare settings (<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/infantcare.htm>). Parents with concerns about influenza and moderate-to-severe respiratory conditions in their children are encouraged to seek medical evaluation. Antivirals are of proven benefit in reducing the duration and severity of influenza if initiated within the first 48 hours following symptom onset.

If you have any questions regarding these recommendations, please contact Elkhorn Logan Valley Public Health Department at 402-529-2233 or Three Rivers Public Health Department at 402-727-5396.