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Press Release

For Immediate Release

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NUMBER OF CONFIRMED CASES OF H1N1 CONTINUES TO GROW IN WEST VIRGINIA

WHEELING, WV – The number of confirmed cases of H1N1 Swine Flu in West Virginia has grown to 59. Officials at the West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources report that 53 of these cases are West Virginia residents and 6 are from out of state, but treated in West Virginia.

H1N1 has been confirmed in the following counties in West Virginia: Berkeley, Boone, Cabell, Greenbrier, Hancock, Kanawha, Lincoln, Monogalia, Putnam, Raleigh and Wood. Wood county accounts for 35 of the total cases in West Virginia. The Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department is advising individuals:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- 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 this way.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you get sick with influenza, CDC recommends that you stay home from work, school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.

The World Health Organization (WHO) raised the worldwide pandemic alert level to Phase 6 in response to the ongoing global spread of the H1N1 virus. A Phase 6 designation indicates that a global pandemic is underway. WHO's decision to raise the pandemic alert level to Phase 6 is a reflection of the spread of the virus, not the severity of illness caused by the virus.

More than 70 countries are now reporting cases of H1N1 flu. This number has been increasing over the past few weeks, but many of the cases reportedly had links to travel or were localized outbreaks without community spread. The WHO designation of a pandemic alert Phase 6 reflects the fact that there are now ongoing community level outbreaks in multiple parts of

world.

For more information go to www.wvdhhr.org, to view a chart depicting the number of H1N1 Swine Flu cases in West Virginia. This information is updated daily, Monday-Friday by 2:00pm. You can also visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website <http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1FLU> or call the Wheeling-Ohio County Health Department at (304) 234-3682 or visit our website at www.ohiocountyhealth.com.

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