



Town of Merrimack

Department of Fire Rescue

NEWS RELEASE:

For Immediate Release:
For Additional Information:
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Swine-Origin Influenza A Virus, S-OIV (H1N1 Swine Flu)

With H1N1 influenza virus is on everyone's mind today, it is important for citizens to understand that the Merrimack Fire Department and Emergency Management teams are focusing on many aspects, which include influenza preparedness, patient care if this event escalates and how we react to the concerns of the public and employees. This is not a time for panic, but an opportunity for preparedness.

The Merrimack Fire Department, created a [webpage](http://www.merrimacknh.gov/fire/disaster_preparedness) (http://www.merrimacknh.gov/fire/disaster_preparedness) for the community to understand the H1N1 flu. The webpage will provide access to various guidance documents and resources generated for public health and safety dealing with this topic like Protecting yourself from the flu, the most up to date information on what happening in Merrimack, patient care, and many other recommendations by the Fire Department and Emergency Management Team. As this event unfolds, use this time to take a few steps to ensure you are ready for the challenge ahead.

Read and learn through research:

The Town of Merrimack is focused on providing links and documentation that have the most current and directly relevant information on this situation. Do your due diligence and be knowledgeable on daily changes and updates. The Center for Disease Control (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO) and State of New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) are the standards, and we follow their recommendations.

Communication:

Information is a powerful ally in the community and The Merrimack Fire Department is currently utilizing a new Community Information Service designed to deliver important and timely information to residents using the latest technology. This service, Nixle, delivers trustworthy and important neighborhood-level public safety and emergency notifications instantly sent to you by cell phone, text message, email, and the web. There is NO Spam or Advertising associated with this program.

Register now at www.nixle.com. Then, we ask that you send out an email and discuss this new emergency notification system to anyone you know within the community of Merrimack, and tell them to register for the service.

If you have any questions the Merrimack Fire Department, Emergency Management Division has established a dedicated e-mail (mfr@merrimacknh.gov) and we will get back to you with answers to your fire and emergency questions.

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