



## ***Marion County*** OREGON

For immediate release: May 4, 2009

Contact: Sandy Stewart (503) 361-2765 or Tonya Johnson, (503) 932-9053

### **Marion County Health Department opens Departmental Operations Center**

In response to the H1N1 influenza outbreak in the United States, the Marion County Health Department (MCHD) officially opened their Departmental Operations Center (DOC) on May 4, 2009. MCHD has been using the incident command structure to guide activities since April 27, 2009. The DOC contact information is 503-588-5342. The DOC is open during regular weekday business hours (8:30am-5:00pm).

Located within the Marion County Health Department, the purpose of the DOC is to manage and monitor the response to the outbreak. According to Public Health Division Director Pamela Heilman, "the DOC is a proven practice in handling situations that require a high level, coordinated response. We have activated the DOC to ensure that we are doing everything we can to protect the public's health."

As of 12:00pm on May 4, 2009, there are no confirmed cases of H1N1 influenza in Marion County. "As the situation continues to change, we do expect to see a case of H1N1 influenza at some point," said Heilman. "This is why we have opened the DOC".

To keep healthy and to control the spread of H1N1 influenza, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommend:

- Washing your hands frequently with soap and water
- Covering your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing
  - If a tissue is not available, you may cough or sneeze into your elbow to avoid contaminating your hands
- Stay home if you are sick
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth

For more information, please visit The Oregon Public Health H1N1 Influenza website [www.flu.oregon.gov](http://www.flu.oregon.gov) or call the statewide hotline at 1-800-978-3040.

H1N1 influenza is a new strain of flu that is thought to spread from person to person through close (within six feet) contact with respiratory droplets from sneezing and coughing. Its symptoms are similar to those in seasonal influenza such as fever, cough,

sore throat, body aches, runny nose, and sometimes accompanied by nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Eating pork that has been properly handled and cooked will not transmit the virus.

# # #