

CENTER RESPONSE TO SWINE FLU OUTBREAK

Many of you have been contacting supervisors, Center nurses, and our Infection Control Officer – Brandy Mouton – about the recent outbreak of swine flu. The Executive Management Team and other appropriate staff met today to discuss the Center's response. Please understand that things will change depending upon the impact of swine flu in our area. We will keep you informed via e-mail and notices on Sharepoint as things change. Right now:

- Employees are encouraged to use appropriate sanitation standards at all times. You have already received information regarding handwashing techniques in your annual infection control training and in e-mails sent out this week.
- Employees need to cover their mouths with tissues when sneezing and coughing. If you don't have a tissue, sneeze or cough into your sleeve. Always wash your hands immediately afterward.
- If you develop flu like symptoms, please stay home! This is important for your co-workers, but even more important for the consumers we serve whose immune systems may be more susceptible to infection.
- Monitor the consumers you serve. If they are developing symptoms, be sure they seek appropriate treatment or that you notify family members/guardians so that they can get the appropriate treatment.
- We are ordering more hand sanitizing dispensers for each employee and will have them available in hallways that have a lot of consumer and employee traffic as soon as they are available. In the meantime, **WASH YOUR HANDS, WASH YOUR HANDS, WASH YOUR HANDS!!!!**

It is premature to make any decision regarding closing the Center at this time. Any decision of that nature would be made in concert with other state and local agencies such as the Health Department. Our intent is to continue to provide services to our consumers for as long as possible. We are closely monitoring the situation with people at the state and local level and will act in accordance with their recommendations. We will make every effort to notify you as soon as any decisions are made.