



# Press Release

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Washington Department of  
Health  
[www.doh.wa.gov/swineflu](http://www.doh.wa.gov/swineflu)

Centers for Disease Control  
[www.cdc.gov/swineflu](http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu)  
or  
[www.cdc.gov/swineflu/investigation.htm#guidancedocs](http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/investigation.htm#guidancedocs)

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## Local Child Dies with H1N1 Influenza Complications

Kennewick – October 21, 2009

A five-month old baby from Franklin County has died, with H1N1 influenza complications contributing to the death, the Benton-Franklin Health District announced today. This is the first Washington pediatric death of the 2009-2010 influenza season.

“We all grieve when the community loses a child,” said Dr. Larry Jecha, Benton-Franklin Health District Health Officer. “There were serious underlying health conditions, but that does not make the loss any easier for the family or the child’s loved ones.”

Since the beginning of September, the Benton-Franklin Health District has been notified of more 40 people hospitalized with H1N1 influenza locally. This is the first local death since the outbreak began last spring.

“My heart goes out to the family of this baby,” said Gov. Chris Gregoire. “The last thing we want to hear is about the death of any of our residents, but it is especially hard when it is a child. I encourage all Washingtonians to take precautions to keep themselves and their children healthy during the coming months.”

With vaccine in short supply, people are urged to continue with personal precautions to protect themselves and their families. These precautions include: wash your hands, cover your cough, and stay home when you are ill. If you do become ill, drink plenty of fluids, take non-aspirin fever reducing medication, and call your healthcare provider if your symptoms become worse. Expect that you will be ill for about a week, and stay home until you have had no fever (without medication) for 24 hours.

BFHD has begun distributing very limited amounts of H1N1 vaccine to local healthcare providers to vaccinate those in high risk categories. H1N1 vaccine is very limited in supply and delivery is slower than expected. Federal health officials now expect the vaccine to be more widely available by mid-November. For more information, check the BFHD website at [www.bfhd.wa.gov/flu](http://www.bfhd.wa.gov/flu).