



ALLEGHENY COUNTY

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Hacker Statement on Flu Deaths in Allegheny County

PITTSBURGH – Dr. Karen Hacker, Director of the Health Department, issued the following statement in response to three deaths due to flu complications that were reported in Allegheny County:

“The Health Department has been notified that three Allegheny County residents have died due to flu complications within the past week.

“All three residents, two males and one female, were over 60 years of age, and had underlying medical conditions.

“It’s very important that residents call their health care provider as soon as possible if they’re experiencing flu symptoms to determine if antiviral drugs should be prescribed. Antivirals can reduce severity of illness and are recommended for those at high-risk for flu complications: the elderly, children, pregnant women, and persons with chronic medical conditions. This medication works best if started within two days of onset of symptoms.

“All residents can take precautions too: Wash your hands. Do not cough or sneeze into your hands - cough or sneeze into your shoulder or elbow instead. And stay at home if you have flu symptoms (fever, muscle aches, cough, sore throat and fatigue), so as not to infect others.

“We urge residents to get their flu shots, if they have not yet received one.”

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