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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FIRST PROBABLE CASE OF SWINE FLU REPORTED IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY
Child Is Doing Well, Has Not Attended School Since April 24**

Westchester County has its first probable case of swine (H1N1) flu, in a Rye child. The Westchester County Department of Health is not releasing identifying information about the child to protect the privacy of the child and the child's family.

The child developed fever, cough, runny nose and sore throat on April 25. The child did not require hospitalization and is now recovering at home. The child has not been in school since April 24, which was before the child became sick. There has been **no increase** in absenteeism in the school the child attends. Based on the latest information available, the Westchester County Department of Health **has not recommended closing the school the child attends.**

The County is awaiting confirmation of the case from the CDC in Atlanta. Of the two other samples sent from Westchester for testing at the state health department, that from an 85-year-old woman is negative and that of another Rye child is pending.

"This is not a surprise," said Health Commissioner Dr. Joshua Lipsman. "We expected this and there likely will be more confirmed cases of swine flu in Westchester. People should remember that each year, millions of people get seasonal flu, and most recover after about a week and do just fine. Thus far, almost all swine cases in the US have been mild."

County Executive Andy Spano, along with Lipsman and Anthony Sutton, Commissioner of Emergency Services, will continue to monitor developments and provide updates as needed. For prevention information for you, your family or business, go to www.westchestergov.com.

The CDC has determined that this swine flu virus is spreading from person to person and is thought to occur in the same way as seasonal flu - mainly through coughing or sneezing of infected people. To help prevent the spread of germs that cause respiratory illnesses like flu:

More

- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- If you get sick with influenza, stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.

For more information, visit the Health Department website at www.westchestergov.com/health or call the Health Department at (914) 813-5000.