



H1N1 (Swine Flu) Update

As you know there is a great deal of concern about the H1N1 (Swine) Flu and whether or not Florida is at risk. More specifically, there are Pinellas County employees who are concerned as to how the County will respond in the event of an outbreak.

As stated previously, the county has been monitoring the issue by staying in contact with the Pinellas County Health Department as well as the Center for Disease Control (CDC). Our Emergency Management Department is on top of the situation and will continue to monitor it over the weekend.

If you or a family member experience flu or flu like symptoms, you will need to remain at home using your annual leave, extended illness leave or floating holidays. **Until further notice, time off related to flu like conditions will be coded as scheduled time and not unscheduled time.**

Many dedicated employees will report to work feeling poorly in order to avoid having unscheduled time. I want to stress that for now, the time off related to flu like symptoms **will not** count against your attendance record.

Employees who report to work with flu symptoms will be instructed to return home regardless of the amount of leave in their leave bank. Their director, manager or supervisor will instruct them to go home until they recover. Employees will need to follow that directive. If the employee does not have accrued annual leave, extended illness leave, comp time or floating holidays, the absences will be coded as scheduled, unpaid leave.

Again, we need to work together to protect each other by controlling the spread of this flu. Once the authorities provide notice that the major impact of this flu has passed we will return to normal attendance guidelines.