

Good Afternoon VNA staff. This is a new automated message from the VNA which is the third in a series of agency FLU Alert updates.

We need to continue to keep our guard up and REMAIN ALERT to the spread of the 2009 H1N1 (swine) flu in our state and community. As of this date, May 15<sup>th</sup>, Vermont has had 1 confirmed case in Orleans County. There have been no reported cases in Chittenden or Grand Isle counties yet. There are 13 confirmed cases in New Hampshire and 224 in New York. We ask you to remain alert to the possibility of this illness in our home and community sites and maintain excellent hygiene measures to prevent transmission of the flu. Keep up your respiratory etiquette (use of Kleenex or your sleeve to cover coughs and sneezes) AND frequent hand washing or use of alcohol gel.

For home visiting staff, continue to follow these practices:

Before or at the beginning of a home visit, ask if the client or anyone in the home currently has a

- cough or sore throat that has developed within the past 7 days AND
- fever that is at or above 100 degrees F

If asking at the beginning of a home visit, remain at least 6 feet away from the person with the illness. If the client or anyone in the home has both these signs of illness, contact a manager or scheduler right away for further instructions. If possible step out of the client's home to make a call to the agency.

If you, our VNA staff member, have either of these signs of illness, please don't come to work. Call your scheduler or manager. If you

are pregnant, additional precautions may be necessary so please talk to your manager.

Thank you very much for your everyday great work and your efforts to contain the spread of flu in our community.

Pat Donehower