



## **NEWS RELEASE**

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**Thomas E. Brown, Sheriff**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **DEKALB JAIL OFFICIALS TAKE PROACTIVE MEASURES TO CONTAIN INFLUENZA SYMPTOMS IN 11 INMATES**

DeKalb County Jail officials and medical staff are taking proactive measures to contain indications of influenza in 11 inmates at the facility in the past three days. Jail medical personnel believe they have tracked the source of the problem to a person who entered the jail on October 13, 2009.

In addition to restricting visitation and education of inmates and re-education of jail staff on steps to take to protect themselves and others, officials have quarantined the area of the jail – one pod – in which the inmates with symptoms of influenza are housed. Also, the areas in and around the isolated pod are being cleaned and sanitized.

The quarantined pod also includes inmates who may have had contact with the individuals presenting flu symptoms. Thus, about 30 of the jail's approximately 3,500 inmates (less than one percent) are isolated from the general population. One person is being treated in the jail infirmary.

Along with standard protective measures, jail and medical staff have been instructed to wear masks when entering the quarantined area.

Employees and inmates last week received literature advising of steps to take to protect their health, and medical personnel are meeting with jail employees and their staffs to reinforce and re-educate on procedures that can significantly reduce the spread of bacteria or viruses that cause influenza. The routine procedures include, but are not limited to, the following practices provided by the Sheriff's Office Health Services Unit:

- Wash hands often with soap and water. Alcohol-based hand cleaners also work well.
- Cover your cough. Cover your nose and mouth with tissue when coughing or sneezing. Throw the tissue in the trash after using, or cough into your upper sleeve and not your hand.

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Be sure to get a seasonal flu vaccine. And, take the H1N1 vaccine if it's applicable to you:
  - Pregnant Female
  - Weakened Immune System
  - Respiratory Illness
  - Chronic Care Disease
  - Healthcare/Public Safety/Corrections Personnel
  - Ages 25 - 64 years with medical issues that put you at a higher risk for influenza-related complications.

Jail officials remind the public that precautionary measures will also be taken should an isolated inmate reach the date for release from jail.

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