



## **From: Department of Public Health and Office of the Mayor**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **Pediatric Flu Death in Northeast Ohio is Region's First of Season**

**CLEVELAND** –The Cleveland Department of Public Health (CDPH) is reporting the death of a 13-year-old girl from Cleveland as the first flu-associated pediatric (0 to 18 years of age) death in Northeast Ohio and the second pediatric flu-associated death in the state for the 2018-19 flu season. CDPH is continuing to investigate the death. Previously, a 3-year-old boy from Highland County in Southwest Ohio died as a result of the flu.

There have been 246 flu-associated hospitalizations reported in the City of Cleveland so far this flu season and 11 influenza-related deaths. Flu activity traditionally begins to increase in October and can last as late as May, with cases typically peaking between December and February.

Symptoms of flu can include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Vaccination throughout the flu season is one of the best flu-prevention methods and shots are available at both the J. Glen Smith Health Center (11100 St. Clair Ave.) and the Thomas McCafferty Health Center (4242 Lorain Rd.). For more information call the CDPH flu hotline at (216) 664-4621.

Other effective ways to avoid getting or spreading the flu include: avoiding close contact with people who are sick; staying home when sick; washing hands often or using alcohol-based hand sanitizer; and covering coughs and sneezes with tissues or coughing or sneezing into elbows.

#### **About the City of Cleveland**

The City of Cleveland is committed to improving the quality of life its residents by strengthening neighborhoods, delivering superior services, embracing diversity and making Cleveland a desirable, safe city in which to live, work and play. For more information on the City of Cleveland, visit online at [www.city.cleveland.oh.us](http://www.city.cleveland.oh.us), Twitter at [@cityofcleveland](https://twitter.com/cityofcleveland) or Facebook at [www.facebook.com/cityofcleveland](http://www.facebook.com/cityofcleveland)