



**American
Red Cross**

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News Release
NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Red Cross Monitoring Swine Flu Situation

(San Joaquin County) – The San Joaquin County Chapter of the American Red Cross is aware of the current human swine flu cases in the United States and Mexico. Currently, the American Red Cross is monitoring the situation and The American Red Cross National Headquarters is in close contact with federal and state health officials, including the Center for Disease Control. The Red Cross urges all to take precautionary measure and Be Red Cross Ready:

- This is a serious situation that has the potential to spread, and it is a good time for families, businesses and organizations to follow good public health practices and to review and update their preparedness plans.
- Stocking extra food, water and supplies at home will reduce the need to go out should this swine flu strain become more widespread and schools or businesses temporarily close.
- The Red Cross recommends storing a two-week supply of food, water and household necessities such as laundry detergent and toilet paper. A gallon of water per person per day should be stored in clean plastic containers. Family preparation steps should also include storing formula for infants, food for special nutritional needs, essential medicines and medical items, and extra food for pets.
- Common sense basic public health practices should be followed. These include covering your cough/sneeze with a tissue, frequent hand-washing, visiting a doctor for flu-like symptoms and staying home when sick.
- While Red Cross organizations in Mexico and other nations provide basic medical care to the public as part of their ongoing mission, the American Red Cross and its chapters have different responsibilities, and focus more on providing shelter, food and mental health counseling.
- The American Red Cross and its chapters will continue to work with government officials on the swine flu issue and stand ready to help as appropriate. The American Red Cross is committed to maintaining the blood supply for the public, to educating the public on preparedness and safety, and to ensuring that we can continue to provide disaster services to those in need.
- People seeking information on human swine flu should visit the CDC web site or call 1-800-CDC-INFO

.About the American Red Cross: The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and counsels victims of disasters; provides nearly half of the nation's blood supply; teaches lifesaving skills; and supports military members and their families. The American Red Cross is a charity, not a government agency, and depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its humanitarian mission.

