

## Swine Flu

Staff Writer

With the flu season approaching, one can't help but be reminiscent of last spring's swine flu epidemic. Swine flu, also known as the H1N1 virus or swine influenza, is a disease that is common in pig populations globally and rarely affects humans. However, a new strain emerged last April causing a worldwide panic.

Swine flu has been seen throughout the major counties in Connecticut. There have been nine cases of death from the virus in Connecticut since its arrival last spring. In Stamford alone, there have been seventy-two confirmed cases of swine flu. The H1N1 virus has similar symptoms to the seasonal flu, including headache, runny nose, and sour throat. It is imperative that anybody with these symptoms immediately seek their physician and get proper treatment before the virus spreads further.

Swine flu spreads when respiratory droplets of a person infected with the virus comes into contact with the mouth or nose of other people. The fluids most often enter the mouth from a person's unwashed hands. Throughout Connecticut, schools have installed hand sanitizers in classrooms and have distributed posters to inform students about proper health decorum.

An H1N1 vaccination is currently set to release in Connecticut in early October. It is recommended that all students receive the shot once available to ensure their health. "I will be sure to get the vaccination after seeing Stamford High students get infected last year," says junior Erik Bell, "[students] know its out there, and we know how serious it can be, and we want to make sure we stay safe and healthy." Children and infants in Connecticut will be the first to receive the vaccination, but eventually it will be available for all of the public as more supplies become more readily available.