Swine flu becomes reality for some

By JANE KENNEDY
Staff Reporter

News of the spread of swine influenza in Mexico reached Traverse City on a red-eye flight on April 15. Janice Kelly Schute, a former UNESCO intern, learned of the news on Monday when she attended a staff meeting at the Student Health Center.

"I was supposed to come back on May 11, but then I got there five hours early because I was worried," Schute said. "I'm studying in Puebla, Mexico, and I heard about it was from American news sources, not the Mexican news. Schute attended that she knew of. She said she did not come home early whether classes were canceled or not. As for Schute, the problem of swine flu is not a big deal for her because she was already in Mexico and thus farther from the virus.

MEXICO CITY — The 2009 swine flu pandemic is as real as it can be. The virus is causing serious health problems and death and has proved contagious, according to the latest news reports.

"Generally in pigs there's two strains, one is the human strain, those vaccines may or may not be effective against. Then in the pig they can recombine, or they can get a different one. They can be even more contagious against.

"I think we're at the point where we're not going to beat the virus anymore, it's too contagious. We aren't going to beat the virus. We're going to take these precautions, that's all we can do. And it's a matter of time before this is over."

MEXICO CITY — Confirmed swine flu cases in Mexico are now 2,000, and the number continues to rise. According to Mexican officials, the virus has spread to five states.

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The Mexican government has confirmed 2,000 cases of swine flu in the country, and officials are taking action to contain the spread of the virus.

"There were 5,000 cases in Mexico last week, and now there are 10,000,” said a Mexican health official. “We are taking action to contain the virus, but it’s spreading fast.”

Mexico City is the current epicenter of the outbreak, with confirmed cases of swine flu in at least 10 states. The capital city has reported more than 1,000 cases, with 50 deaths.

MEXICO CITY — The World Health Organization (WHO) announced today that the swine flu pandemic has ended. The virus has been declared a "pandemic of significant magnitude."

The WHO’s announcement comes as the spread of the virus in Mexico continues. The country has reported more than 2,000 cases and 40 deaths.

"There is no need to panic," said WHO chief Margaret Chan. "We have had a lot of experience dealing with pandemics, and we know how to contain them. This is a very serious situation, but we are not afraid."