



MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OCTOBER 24, 2009

CONTACT: Andrea Ewin Turner
615.741.3111 (office)
615.708.9384 (cell)

STATE HEALTH COMMISSIONER STATEMENT ON PRESIDENT OBAMA'S DECLARATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY FOR H1N1

"The Presidential declaration is a proactive step in preparing for a potential increase in illness and facility demands related to H1N1 flu. This virus is spreading rapidly, and there is the potential for healthcare systems to become overburdened. This administrative statement will allow healthcare facilities to request specific waivers from the federal Department of Health and Human Services to allow them to initiate their disaster plans quickly in response to increased demand. We stand ready to support our healthcare partners as they work with us to protect the health of all Tennesseans."

--- State Health Commissioner Susan R. Cooper, MSN, RN

###

— more —

**CORDELL HULL BUILDING, 3RD FLOOR
425 FIFTH AVENUE NORTH
NASHVILLE, TN 37243
WWW.TENNESSEE.GOV/HEALTH**