

## Murphy Calls on CDC to Make Swift Determination on Need for Swine Flu Vaccine; Meriden Company Poised to be Part of the Solution



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WASHINGTON, D.C. - As more cases of swine flu are confirmed in the United States, today Congressman Chris Murphy (CT-5) called on the Center for Disease Control (CDC) to make a decision as soon as scientifically possible on whether the nation needs to produce a swine flu vaccine. Protein Sciences of Meriden is one of a few companies in the nation that can quickly switch to production of a swine flu vaccine, and it is poised to be part of a national effort to protect people from this illness.

"We potentially have the resources right here in Connecticut to help the CDC deal with a potential swine flu epidemic. If the CDC determines that it's in the public interest to generate a vaccine, I stand ready to help make that happen," said Murphy.

According to Protein Sciences, over the weekend the CDC gave them the genetic code of the swine flu. There is currently no vaccine for this strain of flu, although there are some antiviral drugs that treat the symptoms of it. According to Protein Sciences, they could develop a human swine flu vaccine within weeks and start making tens of thousands of doses in about six weeks.

As a Member of the Health Subcommittee of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, on Thursday morning Murphy will participate in a hearing on the swine flu outbreak and the U.S. response. He will press the Acting Director of the CDC, Richard Besser, to make a decision on the need for a vaccine as soon as possible and will also ask that the CDC work closely with manufacturers to ensure that if a vaccine is needed, production can begin quickly .

To date, the CDC has activated its emergency operations center to coordinate the agency's emergency response. CDC's goals are to reduce transmission and illness severity, and provide information to help health care providers, public health officials and the public address the challenges posed by this virus. Yesterday, CDC issued a travel warning recommending that people avoid non-essential travel to Mexico.

"Companies like Protein Sciences need substantial lead time in order to meet any vaccine needs. I look forward to working with the CDC and companies like Protein Sciences in Meriden to meet our public health needs," said Murphy.

To learn more about the CDC's response to this public health issue, please visit <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>.

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