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**(S.D.)-Statewide Flu Numbers Double Last Year's Totals**



By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 03/28/2013 06:32 AM

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) - A state health expert says South Dakota is being hit hard by the flu this season.

State Epidemiologist Lon Kightlinger says there have been nearly 950 confirmed cases of influenza, more than 330 hospitalizations and 36 deaths. All of the numbers are about double the totals during the 2011-12 flu season.

Kightlinger says a flu vaccine isn't working nearly as well as health workers had hoped it would.

This year's flu season is past its peak but it isn't over. The season typically begins in October and lasts until April or May.