



State of New Jersey

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PO Box 500
TRENTON, NJ 08625-0500

JON S. CORZINE
Governor

LUCILLE E. DAVY
Commissioner

Broadcast #7

April 27, 2009

TO: District Superintendents
Charter School Leaders

FROM: Gerald J. Vernotica, Ed.D.
Assistant Commissioner
Division of Field Services

SUBJECT: Swine Influenza – Guidance for School Districts

TOTAL PAGES: 4

DISTRIBUTE TO: Principals
School Nurses

This document includes guidance regarding the Swine Influenza. Please distribute to principals and school nurses. Also, post the document on your district's website and/or provide it directly to parents.

New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services
Swine Influenza A (H1N1) Virus Information for School and Childcare Settings
April 27, 2009

No cases of swine influenza (H1N1), known as swine flu, have been detected in New Jersey as of April 26, 2009. However, this is a rapidly evolving situation. As more information becomes available and the situation unfolds, guidance is likely to change in the upcoming days and weeks. It is important for people to stay informed by monitoring information provided by the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS).

Guidance for School and Childcare Settings

At this time, New Jersey recommends that schools and childcare settings increase education on respiratory hygiene and monitor attendees for acute febrile respiratory illness.

Staff and children (as developmentally appropriate) should all be taught and asked to follow these steps that prevent the transmission of infections such as influenza:

- Cover your coughs and sneezes.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Wash hands frequently, especially after coughing or sneezing.
- Stay home if you're sick, especially with a fever.

School or childcare participants with acute febrile respiratory illness, regardless of travel history, should be sent home according to facilities-established procedures with instructions to stay at home until 24-48 hours after their symptoms resolve. Instructions should be given to seek medical care with worsening of symptoms. At this time, exclusion is not recommended for school or childcare participants who have recently traveled to an affected area and who do not have symptoms.

Disease Reporting and Consultation

To report suspected cases of swine influenza or outbreaks of influenza like illness, please contact the local health department in the jurisdiction in which the school is located.

We are interested in testing individuals presenting with influenza-like illness (fever, cough, sore throat), mild respiratory illness (nasal congestion, rhinorrhea) with or without fever, vomiting, diarrhea, myalgia, headache, chills, fatigue, dyspnea and conjunctivitis.

Has had at least one potential exposure within 10 days of symptom onset as listed below:

- A.) History of travel to an area where swine influenza H1N1 documented in animals and/or humans (see <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/investigation.htm>); **OR**
- B.) Close contact (within 6 feet) to an ill patient who was confirmed or suspected to have swine influenza; **OR**
- C.) Close contact (within 6 feet) to an ill patient who has traveled to one of the areas above; **OR**

- D.) Recent exposure to pigs; **OR**
- E.) Works with live influenza virus in a laboratory.

For More Information :

U.S. CDC Swine Influenza Website:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swine/>

Infection control and treatment guidance:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swine/recommendations.htm><http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/boh/swine-flu-2009.shtml>

New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services

<http://www.state.nj.us/health/>

School and/or Day Care Specific Resources

All you have to do is wash your hands Podcast: This Podcast teaches children how and when to wash their hands properly.

<http://www2a.cdc.gov/podcasts/player.asp?f=11072>

Downloadable Flu Prevention Materials for Schools/Day Cares:

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/school/>

Preventing the Spread of Influenza (the Flu) in Child Care Settings: Guidance for Administrators, Care Providers, and Other Staff: Flu recommendations for schools and child care providers

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/professionals/infectioncontrol/childcaresettings.htm>

Protecting Against the Flu: Advice for Caregivers of Children Less Than 6 Months Old: Research has shown that children less than 5 years of age are at high risk of serious flu-related complications. <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/infantcare.htm>

Stopping Germs at Home, Work and School: Fact Sheet

http://www.cdc.gov/germstopper/home_work_school.htm

Ounce of Prevention: Tips and streaming video for parents and children about the steps and benefits of effective hand washing <http://www.cdc.gov/ounceofprevention/>

Clean Hands Saves Lives: Keeping hands clean is one of the most important steps we can take to avoid getting sick and spreading germs to others.

<http://www.cdc.gov/cleanhands/>

Hand washing to reduce Disease: Recommendations to Reduce Disease Transmission from Animals in Public Settings

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/rr5605a4.htm>

BAM! Body and Mind. Teacher's Corner: In this activity, students will conduct an experiment on washing their hands. They will learn that "clean" hands may not be so clean after all and the critical importance of washing their hands as a way to prevent the spread of disease. http://www.bam.gov/teachers/epidemiology_hand_wash.html

CDC TV - Put Your Hands Together: (Video) Scientists estimate that people are not washing their hands often or well enough and may transmit up to 80% of all infections by their hands. <http://www.cdc.gov/CDCTV/HandsTogether/>

Cover your Cough Posters: Stop the Spread of Germs that Make You and Others Sick! Printable formats of "Cover Your Cough". Posters only available as PDF files.

<http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/covercough.htm>

CDC - Be a Germ Stopper: Posters and Materials: For Community and Public Settings Like Schools and Child Care Facilities). Cover Your Cough also available for health care settings. <http://www.cdc.gov/germstopper/materials.htm>

"It's a SNAP" Toolkit Program materials to help prevent school absenteeism activities for school administrators, teachers, students and others can do to help stop the spread of germs in schools.

See the hand cleaning section of the "It's a SNAP" site at

www.itsasnap.org/snap/about.asp.

Scrub Club <http://www.scrubclub.org/>Kids can learn about health and hygiene and become members of the Scrub Club(tm) at www.scrubclub.org. The site features a fun and educational animated Webisode with seven "soaper-heros" who battle nasty villains who represent germs and bacteria. Kids learn the six key steps to proper hand-washing through a webisode, hand-washing song, interactive games, and activities for kids, and educational materials for teachers are also available to download.