



County of Erie

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HEALTH ADVISORY #240 REVISED **MAY 26, 2009** **HEALTH ADVISORY: NOVEL INFLUENZA A H1N1 (SWINE FLU) INFECTION** **UPDATE FOR SCHOOLS AND CHILDCARE FACILITIES**

Please distribute immediately to School Superintendents, School Principals, School Nurses, Directors of Facilities and Maintenance, Daycare Providers and other appropriate school or childcare personnel.

General Updates

- The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) and New York State Education Department issued guidance for schools regarding surveillance and absentee reporting on Friday, May 22. To download the document please visit the ECDOH website at http://www.erie.gov/health/swine_flu.asp and under Information for Schools click on [School Absenteeism Monitoring for H1N1 \(Swine Flu\) Infections \(05-22-09\)](#)
- The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has posted updated information regarding Novel Influenza A H1N1 (Swine Flu) on their website: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/update.htm>
- The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) reports the following data:

Confirmed Cases of H1N1 Influenza Infection in New York State (As of May 26, 2009)

<u>Area</u>	<u>Laboratory Confirmed Cases</u>
NYS – Excluding NYC	132
New York City	330
New York State (Total)	462

- Of the 126 cases outside of NYC, NYSDOH reports the following data for western New York (As of May 26, 2009):

<u>County</u>	<u>Laboratory Confirmed Cases</u>
Erie County	17*

Chautauqua	1
Niagara	1

** reflects delay in posting results confirmed at the Erie County Public Health Laboratories*

- The ECDOH we will no longer routinely notify local media of daily new cases, but will make information available on our web site at http://www.erie.gov/health/swine_flu.asp Click on Areas with Positive Cases of Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Virus should you wish to obtain this information.

Erie County Department of Health Guidance

The ECDOH would like to provide the following clarification of issues discussed on the Educational Partners conference call held on Thursday, May 21. Although the recommendations below are in draft form and we encourage all partners to provide comments and feedback as necessary, they should be considered for immediate implementation until further notice.

Revised Case Definition

The revised definition for Influenza Like Illness (ILI) (as utilized by CDC, NYSDOH, and ECDOH) is: the presence of symptoms including a fever $\geq 100^{\circ}$ F AND either a sore throat OR cough. Note that nasal symptoms have been removed from the case definition.

School Exclusion

The ECDOH has developed the following guidelines for exclusion of individuals from school, work, etc. Please note that these guidelines are in draft form and subject to change based on guidance from the CDC, the characteristics of Novel Influenza A H1N1 (Swine Flu) in Erie County, and comments and feedback received from educational, healthcare, and community partners. However, please consider these revised guidelines for immediate implementation until further notice.

- **Seven (7) Day Exclusion** - persons are to be excluded from daycare, school, work, and community activities for 7 days or 24 hours after all ILI* symptoms subside, which ever is longer, if they:
 - Have had a positive Novel Influenza A H1N1 (Swine Flu) test
OR
 - Have had a positive Influenza A test
OR
 - Have ILI* symptoms and are a member of a household in which another person has had a positive Novel Influenza A H1N1 (Swine Flu) test
OR
 - Have ILI* symptoms and are a member of a household in which another person has had a positive Influenza A test

OR

- Have ILI* symptoms and attend a school in a school district with sustained transmission as determined by the ECDOH
- **Twenty-four (24) Hour Exclusion** - all persons with ILI* symptoms who do not meet any criteria for seven-day exclusion are to be excluded from daycare, school, work, and community activities for 24 hours after symptoms subside.

*ILI symptoms include a fever $\geq 100^{\circ}$ F AND either a sore throat OR cough

Notification of Positive Novel Influenza A H1N1 (Swine Flu)

- The ECDOH Epidemiology and Surveillance Program staff will continue to notify school nurses of positive laboratory results for swine flu and influenza A (when known) for students who attend their school.
- The ECDOH will continue to provide school nurses with the dates (determined by date of symptom onset) when infected students may return to school or resume school-related or extracurricular activities.

Attendance/Absenteeism Reporting Requests

- All schools and districts are requested to continue reporting school absenteeism numbers and numbers of students/faculty sent home due to illness for the remainder of the school year.
- Please continue to identify specific ILI or ILI related details on your surveillance reports.
- Please continue to submit surveillance information to ECDOH Epidemiology Program as earlier as possible each day.
- We will continue to evaluate the active surveillance program on a local level and will provide you with updated information as it becomes available.

Behavioral Guidance

- At a minimum, students, faculty, and staff should routinely and consistently wash their hands after using the restroom; before eating or handling food; after blowing their nose, coughing, or sneezing; after handling potentially contaminated objects; and whenever otherwise soiled.
- Schools should implement educational efforts, as well as daily routines to ensure proper hand washing.
- Although soap and water is the preferred method, waterless hand cleansers are an appropriate substitute when necessary.

Environmental Guidance

- Environmental infection control should focus on regular cleaning for most surfaces and only target use of disinfection for surfaces touched frequently by hand. High touch surfaces including door hardware, light switches, handrails, drinking fountains, elevator buttons, desktops/tables, chairs, etc. should be disinfected daily or more frequently if indicated.
- All cleaning products should have viricidal activity.

- All cleaning products, detergents and disinfectants should be used according to the manufacturer's instructions.
- Extraordinary cleaning and decontamination of floors and other minimal touch surfaces (e.g., bookcases, filing cabinets, etc.) is not necessary.
- Environmental infection control actions are supplemental to increased emphasis on proper hand hygiene and cough etiquette.

Questions regarding this advisory should be directed to the ECDOH at (716) 858-7697 or DOHErieCounty.HealthAlertNetwork@erie.gov

Health Category Definitions:

Health Alert FLASH: conveys the highest level of importance due to a large-scale, catastrophic public health emergency; warrants immediate action or attention

Health Alert Priority: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention to a health problem or situation

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary