



#### Village Hall

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[www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org)

SkokieVision Municipal Cable

1660 AM Skokie

#### Council-Manager Government

Mayor	George Van Dusen
Clerk	Marlene Williams
Trustees	Michele L. Bromberg Michael M. Lorge Donald P. Perille Randall E. Roberts Pramod C. Shah Edie Sue Sutker
Manager	Albert J. Rigoni
Counsel	J. Patrick Hanley

#### Awards and Distinctions

All America City Finalist

American Public Works Association  
(APWA) Accreditation

Commission on Accreditation for  
Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA)

Commission on Fire Accreditation  
International (CFAI)

Fitch IBCA AAA Financial  
Bond Rating

Governor's Hometown Award

Government Finance Officers  
Association Budget Award

Government Finance Officers  
Association Certificate of  
Achievement for Excellence in  
Financial Reporting

Insurance Services Office (ISO) Class  
One Fire Department

State of Illinois Certified Health  
Department

Tree City U.S.A. Distinction

Gold Level Clean Air Counts  
Community

# Village of Skokie

June 15, 2009

**For Immediate Release**

## **Health Department Continues to Encourage Residents to Take Precautions Against Novel Influenza A (H1N1)**

The Village of Skokie continues to monitor the spread of novel influenza A (H1N1) virus in the Skokie community now that the World Health Organization (WHO) has raised the level of influenza pandemic alert to Phase 6 and officially declared a flu pandemic. A number of residents have confirmed cases of the virus and several have been hospitalized. The Skokie Health Department is notifying those who might have been exposed and are at risk of acquiring the infection. Since the outbreak began in late April 2009, the Skokie Health Department has worked closely with Skokie schools and health care providers to ensure that necessary precautions and proactive measures are taken to protect the health and well-being of the community.

"There is still much that we don't know about this virus," said Dr. Catherine Counard, Skokie Health Director. "The community must remain vigilant and take steps to be prepared should the situation worsen, particularly this fall during the traditional influenza season." The Skokie Health Department is working closely with regional, state and federal officials to limit the spread of the novel influenza A (H1N1) virus cases in Illinois, and to prepare for administration of influenza vaccinations in the fall.

The Skokie Health Department encourages all residents to practice the following:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water to prevent illness. Teach your children this, too.
- Anyone who is sick should stay home and get better. Do not spread illness at work, at school, at a store, at your house of worship or anywhere.
- If you or a loved one has a fever over 100 degrees, a cough or trouble breathing, call your doctor or other health care provider.
- If you have a respiratory illness, cough or sneeze into a tissue and discard it promptly. Teach your children this, too.
- In addition, Skokie residents are encouraged to think about preparedness for an influenza pandemic or any other type of emergency. Information is available at [www.ready.gov](http://www.ready.gov).

Critical information will be posted on the Village web site and updated as necessary, along with updates to 1660 AM Skokie radio station and to recorded information at 847/675-INFO (4636). For email news alerts, sign up for SkokieNews at [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org). The Village also is planning several influenza information sessions for early fall, 2009. Watch for dates and locations in the August/September *NewSkokie* and on the village web site.

Novel influenza A (H1N1) virus symptoms in people are similar to the symptoms of regular human flu and include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Some people have reported diarrhea and vomiting associated with novel influenza A (H1N1) virus. Anti-viral medications have proven effective in treating novel influenza A (H1N1) virus.

Possible closures of Skokie schools will be considered on a case-by-case basis depending on the number of absentees and other factors. No Skokie schools were closed because of the virus during spring 2009. For more information, please visit [www.skokie.org](http://www.skokie.org).

For more information on novel influenza A (H1N1) virus please visit the Centers for Disease Control web site at [www.cdc.gov/swineflu](http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu). For novel influenza A (H1N1) virus information translations in languages other than English, courtesy of the Chicago Department of Public Health, visit [www.cityofchicago.org](http://www.cityofchicago.org). With other questions call the Skokie Health Department at 847/933-8252.

Released by Marketing and Public Information Division  
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