



School (Pre-K – 12) Guidance in Response to 2009 Influenza A (H1N1) Virus May 7, 2009

Over the past week, the Skokie Health Department (SHD) has investigated several cases of influenza A (H1N1) virus (swine flu) identified in the community. Based upon the most current information gathered from local and regional influenza surveillance data and case investigations, the SHD has modified its approach to the control and prevention of influenza A (H1N1) virus in Skokie. The SHD is issuing this guidance to all schools and school officials to ensure that necessary precautions and proactive measures are taken to protect the health and well-being of students, staff and faculty. These recommendations are subject to change as additional epidemiological and clinical data become available.

Reporting Criteria

Please report the following occurrences to the Skokie Health Department at 847-933-8252:

- Absenteeism beyond what would be expected at this time of year for your school.
- A suspected or confirmed case of influenza A (H1N1) within the school.

A suspected case of influenza A (H1N1) has an acute febrile (temperature $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$) respiratory illness and recent onset of at least one of the following:

- rhinorrhea or nasal congestion
- sore throat
- cough

Recommendations for the control and prevention of influenza A H1N1 virus in Skokie schools:

1. Students, faculty or staff with influenza-like illness (fever and cough, sore throat, rhinorrhea or nasal congestion) should stay home and not attend school. All ill students, faculty and staff should stay out of school for at least 7 days, or until 24 hours after their symptoms have resolved, whichever is longer.
2. **A person who has been excluded in compliance with these guidelines, and is no longer symptomatic, does not require a physician's note to return to school.**
3. Persons who are ill should stay home and not go into the community unless they require medical care. Ill students should not attend alternative child care.
4. The SHD will not routinely recommend school closure on the basis of a laboratory confirmed case of influenza A H1N1 (swine flu). The SHD may, however, recommend school closure if large numbers of students, faculty, or staff become ill with influenza-like illness, which is also the approach taken during the yearly influenza season.

If you have any questions or concerns, or we can assist you in any way, please do not hesitate to call the Skokie Health Department at: (847) 933-8252 (normal business hours), or (847) 982-5900 (after hours). If you call after hours, please ask for the "Health Department Influenza Emergency Contact".