

## **Community Mitigation**

All of our citizens in Michigan can play a role in preventing – and controlling – the spread of the flu virus. Our messaging focuses on simple but effective measures: frequent hand washing and hand sanitizer use, coughing into tissues or sleeves, and staying home when ill - NO traveling unless you are seeking medical attention.

Undoubtedly, the partnership between schools and public health is vital at both the local and state levels. When it comes to our schools, closures create a problem for the entire community. Every effort must be taken to avoid a recurrence of the mass school closures that occurred in spring 2009. We are recommending that school dismissals be reserved for those situations when keeping a school in session is not feasible due to increased absenteeism or disease transmission. However, families should plan and prepare for the impact of potential school dismissals to minimize disruptions at home or in the workplace. Should these closures occur, they could last approximately a week.

Hospitals across Michigan have continued their preparedness efforts. Currently, they continue to work with their hospital preparedness regions to assess and replenish stockpile supplies. MDCH is meeting regularly with regional hospital preparedness medical directors and coordinators to facilitate hospital-based reporting of influenza patient counts, intensive care unit status, and number of available in-patient beds. This information is then reported to MDCH's Community Health Emergency Coordination Center as needed.