



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING



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SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

May 4, 2009

MEMORANDUM

To: Local and Intermediate School District Superintendents
Public School Academy Administrators

From: Carol L. Wolenberg, Deputy Superintendent *Carol*

Subject: H1N1 Flu Guidance and Information Gathering

This is to provide local school districts, intermediate school districts, and public school academies with the latest recommendations regarding the H1N1 (formerly known as swine flu) outbreak.

The State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) and the Michigan Departments of Education, and Community Health need to collect and track school-level information on the on-going impact of this flu outbreak.

This information is vital to the health and safety of all Michigan residents, most importantly the school children. The urgency of your providing this information to the state cannot be stressed enough. When any decision to close a school is made, please provide this information immediately.

To make this as convenient as possible, the Michigan Department of Education has established a special email account for schools to report this information to the state.

That email address is: mdeflu@michigan.gov

The state will need the following data from affected schools:

- Name of district
- Name of building and address
- Contact name and information at the district/building
- Date school closed
- Date school scheduled to reopen
- Number of students/staff out of school
- Number of students/staff with either probable or confirmed cases of H1N1 flu

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We know that you can appreciate the seriousness of this situation and the importance of providing this information to the state. We thank you for your diligence and cooperation.

As you know, the decision to close school in these situations rests on either the local district or the local public health officer. The focus of local superintendents should be on the health and welfare of their students and staff, and the full-year of learning that all students need and deserve. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Mike Flanagan's attention and concern are on the issues related to the students.

State law requires schools to provide a minimum of 1,098 hours of instruction each school year, but allows for up to 30 hours to be "exempted" for conditions not in control of the school (i.e., snow, severe storms, fires, health conditions, etc.). This can apply to schools closed due to the H1N1 flu.

Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH)
Interim Recommendations for School Closures in Michigan
May 3, 2009
1400 hours

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released updated Interim Guidance on School (K-12) Dismissal and Childcare Facilities on May 1, and local health departments and schools have raised questions about implementing this guidance. Currently, Michigan is not seeing extensive severe disease due to novel influenza A (H1N1) virus. However, the number of affected counties has been growing daily. Therefore, MDCH recommends the following:

- Schools or childcare facilities that have a confirmed or probable case be dismissed or closed for seven days (includes weekends) from the date the local health department was notified of the test result. A school or childcare facility can consider reopening if no additional confirmed or probable cases have been identified within the 7-day period, but should re-evaluate this with their local health departments.
- Siblings of confirmed or probable cases should remain at home during this same 7-day period, and not attend their school or childcare facility especially if they attend a different school or facility.
- If a school or childcare facility closes, school or childcare-related gatherings should also be cancelled for this time period. Parents and students should be encouraged to avoid congregating in large numbers outside of the school setting.

This guidance differs slightly from CDC guidance at http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/K12_dismissal.htm as we are not recommending dismissal of schools or childcare facilities attended by non-ill siblings or dismissal of neighboring schools. In addition, the 7-day closure recommendation is based on the incubation period rather than the viral shedding period. These recommendations are subject to change as new information becomes available.