



JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

Michigan Department  
of Community Health



Jennifer M. Granholm, governor  
Janet Olszewski, Director

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Dear Michigan Superintendents:

The Michigan Department of Education (MDE), Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH), and representatives from local health departments and schools have joined forces to create an online pandemic flu planning workbook for K-12 schools in Michigan. Launched on October 26, 2007 at the Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators (MAISA) statewide meeting for intermediate school district superintendents, the workbook will serve as a tool for school officials to use in planning for a flu pandemic.

The workbook includes suggested lesson plans and resources for educating students on disease spread. Recognized as a best practice by the Center for Infectious Disease Research & Policy (CIDRAP), the online pandemic flu planning workbook includes a sample pandemic plan, which can be downloaded and modified to meet each school's individual needs. This easy-to-use workbook will save time and energy to complete your school's pandemic influenza plan, by utilizing existing materials. The workbook includes:

- Templates: sample school pandemic plan; letters to be sent home to parents; educational presentations for the community
- Pandemic planning checklists
- Educational flyers and posters about infection control practices and seasonal flu
- Online toolkit with lesson plans for K-12
- Contact information for local health departments in Michigan

In the event of an outbreak, schools will play a primary role in mitigating the negative consequences associated with pandemic flu through community mitigation measures, school dismissal, isolation and quarantine, and ending after-school activities and programs. Therefore, pandemic planning efforts should be at the forefront of school administrators' priorities.

We strongly encourage you to collaborate with your local health department to develop your pandemic flu plan. This will serve to enhance communication and partnerships that are vital for any emergency response involving schools and public health in the community.

This workbook represents the current knowledge of planning considerations for schools in the event of a pandemic flu. This resource is not meant to supersede local school board policies or local health department initiatives, but rather to inform, provide guidance, and assist in teaching. To view the workbook, visit <http://mdch.train.org/panflu/education/>. For further information, contact James Averill, Division of Communicable Disease, by e-mail at [averillj@michigan.gov](mailto:averillj@michigan.gov) or telephone at 517-335-8165.

Sincerely,

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