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Interim Guidance on Dismissal

It is prudent for communities to act to protect their residents and take advantage of a narrow window of opportunity for intervention based on the information available. Similar to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidance [available at <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/mitigation.htm>], California Department of Public Health (CDPH) recommends that affected counties with at least one laboratory-confirmed case of swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection consider the following guidance for the dismissal of students in affected schools. As we learn more about this emerging virus, updated guidance will be issued in coordination with the CDC and local partners.

When Human Infection with Swine Influenza A (H1N1) Virus is Confirmed in a Community:

- Dismissal of students should be strongly considered in schools with a confirmed or a suspected case epidemiologically linked to a confirmed case.
- Decisions regarding broader school dismissal within these communities should be made by local authorities in coordination with CDPH taking into account the extent of Influenza Like Illness (ILI) or swine influenza in the community.
- If a school dismisses students or a childcare facility* closes, they should also cancel all school or childcare related gatherings and encourage parents and students to avoid congregating outside of the school.
- Schools and childcare facilities should dismiss students for a time period to be evaluated on an ongoing basis depending upon epidemiological findings.
- If no additional confirmed or suspected cases are identified among students (or school-based personnel) for a period of seven days, schools may consider reopening.
- Large gatherings linked to settings or institutions with laboratory-confirmed cases should be cancelled, for example a school event linked to a school with cases. Other large gatherings in the community do not need to be cancelled at this time.

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These recommendations are subject to change as additional epidemiological and clinical data become available.

*Childcare Facility: centers and facilities that provide care to any number of children in a nonresidential setting, large family childcare homes that provide care for seven or more children in the home of the provider and small family childcare homes that provide care to six or fewer children in the home of the provider.