



Placer County Health and Human Services Department

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Dear Superintendents and Principals:

This brief communication is the first of what will likely be many to come regarding pandemic H1N1 influenza (aka "swine flu") during this school year. As you know, this virus has been causing illness, typically mild/moderate but rarely severe, throughout the summer – more so than in the spring even though it received more media attention when it first arrived. With the increased spread of infections that is likely with start of the school year, and the upcoming "regular" flu season, we are anticipating considerably more cases than seen in recent months.

On Friday, August 10th, federal officials held a press conference announcing the release of new guidance and other information regarding the prevention and control of H1N1 flu in school settings. Key pieces of this information, especially the guidance and the communication toolkit, can be found at the links below. We encourage your careful review of these items, and implementation as appropriate at your site(s).

School guidance:

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/schools/schoolguidance.htm>

School communication toolkit

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/schools/toolkit/>

Complete school info (homepage):

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/schools/>
<http://www.flu.gov/plan/school/index.html>

We will be working with you more closely on a number of pandemic H1N1 flu activities as the school year and flu season progress. Some of these include planning and coordination for provision of H1N1 vaccine as soon as it becomes available, and various prevention and mitigation strategies.

We look forward to jointly doing all we can to limit the speed and extent of spread of this new influenza in order to protect the children and the entire community in our county. Thank-you in advance for all of your efforts, and please feel to contact us at the number below as needed.

Kind regards,

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Perspective, Hope, and Opportunity