



DALLAS COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ZACHARY THOMPSON MA  
Director

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Medical Director/  
Health Authority

4/26/2009

To: Dallas County Area School Health Personnel  
Re: Swine Influenza Outbreak  
Priority: Urgent

Current information:

1. Dallas County has 3 probable cases of swine influenza infections in separate locations of the County.
2. Swine flu infections are occurring in Central and Northern Mexico with reports of severe illness and deaths.
3. Cases of swine flu have been confirmed in the San Antonio area as well as California, Kansas, Ohio, and New York State.
4. Byron Steele High School in Cibolo, Texas has been closed as a result of the swine flu infections in the San Antonio area.
5. The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared a public health emergency.
6. The United States Department of Homeland Security has declared a public health emergency.
7. Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) is engaged in intense surveillance and investigation activities to detect cases locally.

This situation has the potential to rapidly escalate and particularly has implications for school-age students and schools. At this time, we are recommending the following actions be taken immediately:

1. Collect DAILY student absence information in the same format as the seasonal influenza surveillance forms. Please clarify as to whether absences are likely due to influenza-like illness. Provide this information to Mary Katherine Smith, 972-296-2706, 214-819-2099(fax), [mksmith@dallascounty.org](mailto:mksmith@dallascounty.org).
2. Students and employees should not be allowed to attend school if they have symptoms of flu, particularly if they have a fever.
3. Persons sick with the flu should seek medical attention immediately for further testing and treatment.
4. Per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, persons infected with swine influenza should not return to school for 7 days following an infection.

We will provide additional updates as this situation necessitates. Please contact us if we can answer any further questions.

Sincerely,

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