



Human Services

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To: Summer Camps, Sports and Recreational Facilities, Child Care Programs, Schools
And Home School Settings

From: Elizabeth Tilson, MD, MPH *ETT*
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Re: Guidance in Response to the Novel H1N1 Virus

As you know, the novel H1N1 flu virus is causing illness in Wake County, as well as other counties in North Carolina, the United States and countries around the world. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) expects that illnesses may continue for some time. We would like to provide you with information to help you be prepared if you, your staff or the children in your care become ill.

At this time, CDC recommends a focus on early identification of sick students and staff, staying home when sick and good cough and hand hygiene etiquette. The following information is taken directly from the CDC website, and will provide you with guidance for these community group settings.

Guidance for K-12 Schools

- School dismissal is not generally advised for a suspected or confirmed case of novel influenza A (H1N1) and typically is not considered unless there is a magnitude of faculty or student absenteeism that interferes with the school's ability to function.
- Students, faculty or staff with influenza-like illness (fever with a cough or sore throat) should stay home and not attend school or go into the community except to seek medical care if needed.
- Students, faculty and staff who appear to have an influenza-like illness at arrival or become ill during the day should be isolated promptly in a room separate from other students and sent home.
- Aspirin or aspirin-containing products should not be administered to any confirmed or suspected ill case of novel H1N1 influenza virus infection aged 18 years old and younger due to the risk of Reye syndrome. Refer to pediatric medical management for guidance regarding use of any medications, especially those containing aspirin. (<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/clinicians/>)
- Parents and guardians should monitor their school-aged children, and faculty and staff should self-monitor every morning for symptoms of influenza-like illness.

- Sick students should not attend alternative child care or congregate in other neighborhood and community settings outside of school.
- School administrators should communicate regularly with local public health officials to obtain guidance about reporting of influenza-like illnesses in the school
- Schools can help serve as a focus for educational activities aimed at promoting ways to reduce the spread of influenza, including hand hygiene and cough etiquette.
- Students, faculty and staff should stringently follow sanitary measures to reduce the spread of influenza, including covering their nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing (or coughing or sneezing into their sleeve if a tissue isn't available), frequently washing hands with soap and water, or using hand sanitizer if hand washing with soap and water is not possible.

Guidance for Summer Camps, Sports and Recreational Facilities, Child Care Programs

Summer camps, sports and recreational facilities, child care programs, and school settings may use the same guidance for child care programs developed by CDC, as follows:

- As for schools, closure of a community group facility is not currently recommended due to novel H1N1 influenza in the community or the child care facility. Child care programs should follow the above recommendations for schools along with the other recommendations in this section.
- Program staff should conduct daily health checks on all children. Although daily health checks have been recommended for child care programs before the current H1N1 flu situation, programs that do not conduct routine daily health checks should institute this practice. (See Caring for Our Children Standards 3.001 and 3.002 for information on how to do this <http://nrckids.org/>)
- Sick children should stay home and not be taken out of one group setting and put into another group setting, even temporarily.
- Facility staff should be clean and sanitize frequently-touched surfaces, (such as desks, doorknobs, computer keyboards, toys) routinely and if they become visibly soiled.
- Group programs can help serve as a focus for educational activities aimed at promoting ways to reduce the spread of influenza, including hand hygiene and cough etiquette.

We appreciate everything you do to keep the children of Wake County safe. Here are additional links where you will find good resource information for parents, caregivers, facility staff, and the general public:

[H1N1 Flu \(Swine Flu\): Resources for Parents and Caregivers](#)

[Questions and Answers: H1N1 Flu \(Swine Flu\) and You](#)

http://nrckids.org/CFOC/HTMLVersion/Chapter_3.html#1076310

<http://www.epa.gov/oppad001/influenza-disinfectants.html>

(Please let us know if there is some other fax number or email address to which you want emergency and public health information sent by emailing Regina Petteway at Rpetteway@co.wake.nc.us. Also let us know if you do not want to receive this information by emailing Regina and putting the word "unsubscribe" in the subject line.

Si usted quiere saber lo que dice esta carta en español o si tiene preguntas, llame a Carla Piedrahita al 919-250-3891.)