

NEA Information Network

The NEA Health Information Network recognizes that NEA members share the public concern about the rapidly emerging Swine Flu. As of 4:00 pm today, Monday, April 27, 2009, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that there have been 40 confirmed cases (and 10 more probable cases) in six states. Only two people have been hospitalized and both have recovered. Schools have closed in five states (California, New York, Ohio, South Carolina, and Texas). It is important to note that the disease thus far in the United States is much less severe than in Mexico.

NEA HIN is currently developing more detailed information for NEA leaders and members based on CDC and other federal guidance and we will send a second communication when this information is available. Currently, information can be found at the following sites:

- Public health information at The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/general_info.htm
- Additional information for schools can be found at The U.S. Department of Education <http://www.ed.gov> <<http://www.ed.gov>>
- Questions specific to school concerns can be sent to osfds.safeschl@ed.gov

Schools should continue to practice hygiene behaviors such as:

- Hand washing with soap and water or alcohol-based hand cleansers
- Providing students and staff with tissues and trash cans for disposal
- Cleaning of desks and other surfaces
- Requiring students/staff who exhibit flu-like symptoms to stay at home and contact a health care provider

Local health departments are critical sources of information and decision making regarding control measures. Contact your local health department if you have any concerns or questions.