

Jim Doyle
GovernorKaren E. Timberlake
Secretary**State of Wisconsin
Department of Health Services**608-266-1251
FAX: 608-267-2832
TTY: 888-701-1253
dhs.wisconsin.gov**Interim Guidance to Local Health Departments and Tribal Communities
for School/Day Care Center Closure in Response to Human Infections with
Swine-origin Influenza A(H1N1) Virus**

This document is based on guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and provides interim planning guidance for local communities. It focuses on several nonpharmaceutical measures that might be useful during this epidemic of swine-origin influenza A (H1N1) virus infections aimed at reducing disease transmission and associated morbidity and mortality.

- Dismiss students in schools/day care centers with a probable or confirmed case or a suspected case that is epidemiologically linked to a probable or confirmed case. Case definitions can be found at http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/casedef_swineflu.htm.
 - The local health officer has the authority to close implicated schools and/or day care centers (Wis. Stats. 252.03(1) and (2)). Decisions on closure should be coordinated with the Division of Public Health for all closures and with the Department of Public Instruction when applicable.
 - Establish the date of onset of symptoms to determine if the individual was in attendance in the school/day care during the infectious period (1 day before to 7 days after symptom onset).
- Affected schools/day care centers will be closed for a minimum of 7 days from the last known date of attendance of any symptomatic attendee.
 - Criteria for symptomatic illness
The attendee (student or staff) may have an illness characterized by any two of the following three criteria:
 1. Fever (typically 37.8 degrees centigrade or 100.3 degrees Fahrenheit and greater).
 2. Headache or myalgia (aches and pain, muscle aches, chest discomfort)
 3. Respiratory signs or symptoms (cough or sore throat/congestion)
- If the suspected case proves to be negative for swine influenza, the school/day care center closure order may be lifted.
- No special cleaning of the school environment that is beyond what is normally done is required.
- Decision to reopen the affected school/day care center will be made in consultation with local and state health officer or designee.
- Students and staff from affected schools/day care centers should be placed on home quarantine and be instructed to stay home for a minimum of 7 days.
- School/day care center closure must include the suspension of sanctioned activities on or off campus or other activities within the facility that would include any quarantined individuals.

- Parents should be given information on the signs and symptoms of influenza and instructed to immediately contact the local health department if their children become symptomatic. (See case definition link above)
- Determine how students or staff with confirmed or probable cases or their symptomatic contacts were transported to school/day care center during their infectious period.
 - If transported by school bus that is shared by other schools, the students from the other schools/day care centers should also be quarantined.
 - If transported by public mass transit bus, consider a press release identifying the affected bus and instruct bus riders to be aware of exposure and the possible development of influenza symptoms and to seek testing and medical care if those symptoms occur.
- School/day care center employees in affected schools and day care centers, whether based in that facility or not, should not work at other schools/day care centers until their quarantine period is lifted.
- No schools, day care centers or after school programs in the area surrounding disease activity, as determined by the local health officer, should accept new enrollees until further notice. If enrollment is necessary, the facility should seek approval from the local health department. This step is necessary to prevent students/day care center attendees exposed in a closed facility from being enrolled in a facility that is not closed and potentially exposing others in the facility that was not closed.
- Businesses that employ parents of children in affected schools/day care centers should be aware of the need for the parent to stay home to take care of their quarantined child.