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Mayor

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## **City of Milwaukee Health Department Orders More School Closures, Reiterates Persons Sick Should Stay Home**

### *Health Officials Say 54 Cases of H1N1 Influenza in City*

Nine additional schools and one childcare facility have been temporarily closed as health officials continue to identify cases of Influenza A (H1N1) S-OIV (Swine-Origin Influenza Virus), or H1N1 S-OIV, in Milwaukee.

“After extensive conversations throughout the weekend with CDC officials at the Division of Global Migration and Quarantine as well as key leaders from the Wisconsin Division of Public Health, we have made a decision not to close all schools in the City at this time,” said Commissioner of Health Bevan K. Baker.

The new schools to be closed are:

- Christ-St. Peter Lutheran School, 2229 W. Greenfield Ave.
- Christ-St. Peter Lutheran School, 1204 S. 8<sup>th</sup> Street
- Curtin Leadership Academy, 3450 S. 32<sup>nd</sup> Street
- El Puente High School, 611 W. National Avenue
- Our Lady Queen of Peace, 2733 W. Euclid Avenue
- Saint Anthony School, 1747 S. 9<sup>th</sup> Street
- Alcott Elementary, 3563 S. 97<sup>th</sup> Street
- Guadalupe Head Start South, 239 W. Washington Street
- Hayes Bilingual School, 2431 S. 10<sup>th</sup> Street

The childcare facility is:

- Heavenly Angels Child Care Center, 2455 W. North Avenue

A complete list of school and childcare closures is available at [www.milwaukee.gov/health](http://www.milwaukee.gov/health).

“The CDC recommends that schools that have been closed remain closed for up to 14 days prior to re-opening,” Commissioner Baker said. “However, the MHD has determined that we will monitor the situation daily, and in 6 days re-evaluate the possibility of opening schools sooner than the CDC-recommended 14 day period.”

During the time that a school is closed, the City of Milwaukee Health Department is urging that staff and children of that school to remain home during the closure period and not re-congregate in community settings. However, if there are no symptoms in any household member, then others in the household who do not work or attend the affected school are not restricted in their activities.

“Remember, these children and staff are likely to have been exposed to the swine flu, and may be incubating disease,” Commissioner Baker said. “It is important for them to stay home to minimize the risk of further spread of disease in the community.”

There are now 54 confirmed or probable cases of swine flu in the City of Milwaukee.

Health officials again stressed their recommendation that any person in Milwaukee who has symptoms consistent with influenza stay home from work or school, and contact their healthcare professional to help slow the spread of disease in the community.

“I wish to reiterate that this is a new virus, to which nobody has any immunity, and for which there is currently no vaccine,” Commissioner Baker said. “The outbreak has been going on in this country and in this city for only a very short time, and we have much to learn about as things unfold.”

“At every step along the way I will take every prudent effort to protect the health of the people of Milwaukee,” he said.

Some ways to stay healthy and to protect yourself and those around you from getting the flu include:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water, or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with your upper sleeve. If you use a tissue, throw it away after one use.
- Use your own drinking cups and straws.
- Avoid being exposed to people who are sick with flu-like symptoms.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Eat nutritious meals, get plenty of rest and do not smoke.
- Frequently clean commonly touched surfaces (i.e., door knobs, refrigerator handle, telephone, faucets)

To learn more about swine influenza, visit <http://pandemic.wisconsin.gov/> or [www.milwaukee.gov/health](http://www.milwaukee.gov/health).

Or visit us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/MKEhealth> or in Spanish at <http://twitter.com/MKEsalud>.

Residents can also dial 2-1-1 to have their questions about swine flu answered in both English and Spanish.