



Health Department

Tom Barrett
Mayor

Bevan K. Baker, FACHE
Commissioner of Health

Administration

Frank P. Zeidler Municipal Building, 841 North Broadway, 3rd Floor, Milwaukee, WI 53202-3653 phone (414) 286-3521 fax (414) 286-5990
web site: www.milwaukee.gov/health

For Immediate Release
May 5, 2009

Media Contacts:

Kawanza Newson	Anna Benton
414-286-3548 Office	414-286-3064
414-732-7250 Mobile	414-397-1620

All Schools to Reopen in the City of Milwaukee *Health Officials Say 93 Cases of H1N1 Influenza in City*

There will be no additional school closures in the City of Milwaukee and all previously closed schools will reopen, city officials said Tuesday.

The new decision is in accordance with newly issued guidelines released Tuesday afternoon by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“This decision is based on our own analysis of local and national information as well as the brand-new CDC guidance, which was issued after careful CDC analysis of the severity of illness in the US,” said City of Milwaukee Health Department Chief Medical Officer Geoffrey Swain. “I want to emphasize that severity is different from prevalence --- this disease is widespread in our community and across the country.”

Previously closed public and private schools and childcare facilities can be reopened on May 6 according to the following MHD recommendations:

1. Any student, faculty or staff in school or childcare settings with symptoms of flu – defined as two or more of the following symptoms: fever, cough, sore throat, and/or runny nose – may not attend school or childcare until at least 7 days have elapsed since symptom onset, AND until 24 hours after all symptoms have resolved, even if that takes longer than 7 days.
2. Parents and guardians should monitor their school-aged children or childcare attendees every morning and faculty and staff should self monitor every morning for influenza-like illness.
3. Students, faculty and staff experiencing the above-listed symptoms should stay home from school or childcare for the above listed period of time. This includes refraining from participating in extra-curricular activities including sports, other school events, or other gatherings of people.
4. Students, faculty and staff experiencing the above-listed symptoms should not attend other alternative school or childcare settings for the above listed period of time.
5. Faculty and staff who become ill with the above listed symptoms during the course of the school or childcare day are expected to go home as quickly as possible, and to stay home for the above listed period of time.
6. Students who become ill with the above listed symptoms during the course of school or childcare should be promptly isolated in a room separate from others, and sent home for the above listed period of time.
7. Ill students, faculty and staff should not be sent home by public or mass transit.
8. All schools and childcare facilities should continue to emphasize good hand hygiene and cough etiquette including frequent hand-washing with soap and water or hand sanitizers as well as use of tissue. Soap and water or hand sanitizers must be readily available to everyone in such settings.

The MHD will continue to work closely with MPS and other schools and school systems, including childcare facilities, to monitor symptoms and student absenteeism rates in the coming weeks. The MHD may invoke closure of a school or childcare setting should the magnitude of illness among students, faculty and staff warrant such action.

“We will continue to closely monitor cases within our community and throughout the nation and world,” said Commissioner of Health Bevan K. Baker. “As new guidance from the CDC becomes available and as we learn more information, the City of Milwaukee Health Department will continue to refine its actions and responses.”

There are currently 93 probable and confirmed cases within the city of Milwaukee. While only 2 are confirmed so far, the City of Milwaukee Health Department anticipates that at least 95% of probable cases will become confirmed over time.

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. Symptoms of influenza include fever, cough, sore throat, and runny or stuffy nose.

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.

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.