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City of Milwaukee Health Department Reports Additional Probable Cases of H1N1 S-OIV

Twelve Milwaukee Public Schools Now Temporarily Closed

The City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) has identified 27 probable cases of H1N1 S-OIV in the area, prompting health officials to reiterate their recommendation that any person in Milwaukee who has symptoms consistent with influenza to stay home from work or school, and contact their healthcare professional to help slow the spread of disease in the community.

Meanwhile, the city ordered temporary closure of seven additional Milwaukee Public Schools.

The schools now ordered closed are:

- Forest Home Avenue School, 1516 W. Forest Home Avenue
- Kosciuszko Montessori School, 971 West Windlake Avenue
- Lincoln Avenue School, 1817 West Lincoln Avenue
- ALAS High School (in the Kosciuszko building)
- Wedgewood Park International School, 6506 West Warnimont Avenue
- Milwaukee Learning Laboratory Institute (in the Wedgewood building)
- Honey Creek Continuous Progress Charter School (connected to Wedgewood building by a common hallway.)

The MHD previously announced the closure of Allen-Field Elementary, Mitchell Street School, Riverside High School, Clement Avenue School and Rogers Street Academy.

“We can not stress enough that swine flu is a serious threat throughout the nation and our community,” said Commissioner of Health Bevan K. Baker. “We urge you to follow these recommendations today in order to try to slow the spread of this disease in our community

Swine flu spreads person to person when a person infected with the flu coughs or sneezes and the uninfected person breathes in the virus. So, even if you don’t feel sick, there are important things you can do to help prevent spread of disease.

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)

MHD has also partnered with 2-1-1. Residents who dial this number will be able to have their questions about swine flu answered in both English and Spanish.

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

The list of states with the numbers of people who are confirmed cases is updated daily at 11am at www.cdc.gov/swineflu.