



DALLAS COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ZACHARY THOMPSON MA  
Director

JOHN CARLO MD MSE  
Medical Director/  
Health Authority

4/26/2009

To: Parents of students attending Dallas County Schools  
Re: Swine Flu Outbreak  
Priority: Urgent

Current information:

1. Dallas County has 3 probable cases of swine influenza infections in separate locations of the County.
2. Swine flu infections are occurring in Central and Northern Mexico with reports of severe illness and deaths.
3. Cases of swine flu have been confirmed in the San Antonio area as well as California, Kansas, Ohio, and New York State.
4. Byron Steele High School in Cibolo, Texas has been closed as a result of the swine flu infections in the San Antonio area.
5. The World Health Organization (WHO) has declared a public health emergency.
6. The United States Department of Homeland Security has declared a public health emergency.
7. Dallas County Health and Human Services (DCHHS) is engaged in intense surveillance and investigation activities to detect cases locally.

This situation has the potential to rapidly escalate and particularly has implications for school-age students and schools. At this time, we are recommending the following actions:

1. Do not let your child to attend school if he/she has symptoms of the flu, particularly fever. Your school should make necessary arrangements to help your child make-up for any missed school days.
2. If anyone in your home is sick with symptoms of the flu, be sure that they receive medical care as you would during a typical flu illness.
3. Persons diagnosed with swine influenza infections are instructed to stay at home for 7 days after the start of illness and fever is gone.
4. Wash your hands after being around a sick child, and keep sick children separated from healthy members of the family. Encourage everyone to cover their mouths and noses when coughing or sneezing.

For additional information, contact the Centers for Disease Control at 1-800-CDC-INFO, or online at: <http://www.cdc.gov>.

Sincerely,

John T. Carlo, M.D., M.S.E.  
Medical Director/Health Authority  
jcarlo@dallascounty.org

Wendy Chung, MD, MSPH  
Chief Epidemiologist  
wchung@dallascounty.org