

## Frequently Asked School and Flu-related Questions and Answers

- 1. Are schools required to close if any students or staff are diagnosed with H1N1?** Any decision on school dismissal or closure is made at the local level by school and health officials. Factors to consider include how school absenteeism and staffing shortages could affect school operations. School closure is generally not advised unless large a number of staff are absent and their absence interferes with the school's ability to function safely.
- 2. How long should students or staff diagnosed with flu stay out of school?** Students or staff with flu-like illness symptoms and a fever of 100°F (37.8°C) should stay home. They should not attend school or go into the community, except to seek medical care, until at least 24 hours after they are free of fever, or signs of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medication. In some cases, local officials may determine that the exclusion period should be longer.
- 3. What if someone comes to school and then begins to show flu-like symptoms?** Students and staff who appear to have an flu-like illness when they come to school-or become ill during the school day-should be isolated in a room separate from other people if possible, or a kept a minimum of 6 feet away from others while wearing a surgical mask until then can be sent home in accordance with district procedures.
- 4. What is the best way to be sure individuals who have the flu do not go to school?** Parents and guardians should monitor their school-aged children and, every morning, staff should check themselves for flu-like symptoms. Ill persons should stay home.
- 5. If my child shows flu-like symptoms, should he or she still attend day care or other after-school activities?** Ill students should stay home. They should not attend alternative childcare, after-school activities, or other group activities.
- 6. When school administrators learn of students who have been infected with novel H1N1 flu, who should those administrators contact?** School administrators should communicate regularly with local public health officials to obtain up-to-date guidance about the reporting of influenza-like illnesses in the school.
- 7. What can school administrators do to control the spread of any influenza virus in their schools?** Schools can help reduce the spread of any flu - whether it is the novel H1N1 flu virus or seasonal flu - by promoting good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.
- 8. What should students and school staff do to follow "good hand hygiene" and "good respiratory etiquette"?** Students and staff should frequently wash their hands with soap and water or if hand washing with soap and water is not possible, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. They should carefully cover their mouth or nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing. (If a tissue is not available, they should cough or sneeze into their sleeves).