



**Robin Cox, MPH, CPH**  
*Health Education Manager*  
*Public Health Public Information Officer*  
*Health Promotion and Education Bureau*

**Ronald W. Chapman, MD, MPH**  
*Health Officer/Deputy Director*

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Contact: Ronald W. Chapman, MD, MPH, Health Officer, 784-8600  
Michael Stacey, MD, Deputy Health Officer, 784-8600  
Robin Cox, MPH, CPH, Health Education Manager, 784-8611

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TWO NEW PROBABLE H1N1 FLU CASES IN SOLANO

Two new “probable” cases of H1N1 flu were identified in Solano County Thursday, bringing the total number of probable cases in Solano County to three. A “probable case” is defined as person with a positive Influenza A test result, that is unable to be further subtyped, or identified, at the local level and must be sent to the state lab or the CDC. Ninety-five percent of the “probable” cases are later confirmed as H1N1/swine flu by the CDC.

One of the patients is a four year old female from Fairfield, and the second new probable case is a 16 year old female from Suisun.

“Both patients had mild cases, are doing well, and are nearly fully recovered,” said Ronald W. Chapman, MD, MPH, Solano County Public Health Officer.

The four year old is not in child care. “The sixteen year old is a student at Armijo High School, however there is no evidence of an outbreak of illness at Armijo, and we will not be closing the school,” said Dr. Chapman.

“We are encouraging families to send their children to school and are following the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines released Tuesday, that schools no longer need to be closed unless student or staff absences interfere with the school’s ability to operate,” said Dr. Chapman. In the meantime the number of cases continues to rapidly increase in the United States. For this reason, Solano Public Health will continue to

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closely monitor the pandemic and encourage the public to follow recommended prevention measures.

At this time, CDC recommends the primary means to reduce spread of influenza in schools is to focus on early identification of ill students and staff, staying home when ill, and good cough and hand hygiene etiquette. CDC asks parents to monitor their children's health and to not send students to school if they show any signs of illness, including sore throat or cough and fever of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher.

CDC revised their guidance on Tuesday noting that with more than 1000 confirmed or probable cases of novel influenza A (H1N1) have been reported from 44 states, and with numerous disease clusters indicating spread within communities, that it makes individual school closure less effective as a control measure.

Solano Public Health is working closely with the Solano County Office of Education and the Fairfield-Suisun Unified School District to ensure that parents are kept well-informed.

"Our community has responded very positively to our health messages that are designed to protect the health of all of our residents. I urge everyone to continue these good hand-washing and coughing practices long after H1N1, because they are very helpful to stop the spread of many different kinds of germs," said Dr. Chapman.

New information on probable cases will be posted as they become available on [www.solanocounty.com](http://www.solanocounty.com). For more information call the California Department of Public Health H1N1 Flu hotline at 1(888) 865-0564 or visit [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov), [www.cdph.ca.gov](http://www.cdph.ca.gov).

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# **Excerpt from: Update on School (K – 12) and Childcare Facilities: Interim CDC Guidance in Response to Human Infections with the Novel Influenza A (H1N1) Virus**

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May 5, 2009, 6:45 PM EDT.

New information on disease severity and the extent of community spread warrant revision of the school closure guidance. As of May 4, 2009, more than 1000 confirmed or probable cases of novel influenza A (H1N1) have been reported from 44 states, with numerous disease clusters, indicating spread within communities that makes individual school closure less effective as a control measure. Most U.S. cases have not been severe and are comparable in severity to seasonal influenza. CDC and local and state health officials will continue to closely monitor the severity and spread of this novel H1N1 influenza outbreak.

At this time, CDC recommends the primary means to reduce spread of influenza in schools is to focus on early identification of ill students and staff, staying home when ill, and good cough and hand hygiene etiquette. Decisions about school closure should be at the discretion of local authorities based on local considerations, including public concern and the impact of school absenteeism and staffing shortages.

## **Recommendations**

- School closure is not advised for a suspected or confirmed case of novel influenza A (H1N1) and, in general, is not advised unless there is a magnitude of faculty or student absenteeism that interferes with the school's ability to function.
- Students, faculty or staff with influenza-like illness (fever with a cough or sore throat) should stay home and not attend school or go into the community except to seek medical care for at least 7 days even if symptoms resolve sooner.
- Students, faculty and staff who are still sick 7 days after they become ill should continue to stay home from school until at least 24 hours after symptoms have resolved.
- Students, faculty and staff who appear to have an influenza-like illness at arrival or become ill during the school day should be isolated promptly in a room separate from other students and sent home.
- Parents and guardians should monitor their school-aged children, and faculty and staff should self-monitor every morning for symptoms of influenza-like illness.
- Ill students should not attend alternative child care or congregate in settings other than school.
- Schools can help serve as a focus for educational activities aimed at promoting ways to reduce the spread of influenza, including hand hygiene and cough etiquette.
- Students, faculty and staff should stringently follow sanitary measures to reduce the spread of influenza, including covering their nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing (or coughing or sneezing into their sleeve if a tissue isn't available), frequently washing hands with soap and water, or using hand sanitizer if hand washing with soap and water is not possible.