



Nevada State Health Division  
Public Health Preparedness



## Nevada Revises School Closure Guidance for H1N1

May 12, 2009 7:15 am PST

Updated: August 12, 2009 2:45 pm PST

In response to revised guidance from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and a greater knowledge of how the virus is affecting people, the Nevada State Health Division today again announced guidance regarding school closure when a case of H1N1 virus is confirmed within Nevada's school population:

- In conformance with CDC guidance, the Nevada guidance assumes all schools will remain open following the confirmation of a case of H1N1 virus among its students. Upon that confirmation, the local school district superintendent and the local district health officer will meet to discuss the situation and agree on monitoring and surveillance procedures.
- Should the health officer/or school superintendent disagree about closing a school or need technical assistance, a full meeting will be held of the Joint Health and Education Authorities Influenza Oversight Committee, which includes two local officials as well as State Health Officer, Dr. Tracy Green and Nevada State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. Keith Rheault. "This guidance for Nevada's school is consistent with the direction of the CDC and offers protection for Nevada's school children while recognizing that the H1N1 virus is acting more mildly than the regular, seasonal flu," said Dr. Green.

Under the previous guidance, the full Joint Health and Education Authorities Influenza Oversight Committee met following each case of confirmed H1N1 virus within a school district student. That process worked perfectly during initial cases to decide what action was necessary regarding the schools, but a greater understanding of the virus and its severity led to this change.

For further information on guidance for school and child care facility closure, please see <http://www.cdc.gov>, <http://www.flu.gov>, and <http://www.flu.nv.gov>



Nevada State Health Division  
Public Health Preparedness



## H1N1 Update

The Secretaries of Health and Human Services, Homeland Security and Education and CDC

Director, Tom Frieden held a press conference on Friday, August 7, 2009, making the following recommendations regarding the anticipated H1N1 outbreak:

- The H1N1 Vaccine will be ready for distribution in Mid-October.
- The vaccine will consist of two shots and is recommended for school age children, pregnant women, and individuals with pre-existing medical conditions.
- New H1N1 guidance has been released for K-12 schools (August 7, 2009) and is available online at [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov).
- School closure remains a local decision, but should be seen as a last resort.
- Superintendents will be meeting on September 3, 2009 and will be discussing H1N1 with the Nevada State Health Division's Bureau of Health Planning, Statistics, Planning and Emergency Response.
- Guidance for higher education and Pre-K settings will be released August 23, 2009.
- Three recommendations from CDC include the following:
  1. Students/staff infected with H1N1 should remain out of school for 24 hours after fever has dissipated without the use of fever reducing medications.
  2. Youth should be kept home from school if they are displaying any flu symptoms.
  3. Thorough hand washing and "coughing into sleeves" are recommended.

For further guidance, please see the web sites below:

[http://www.flu.gov/plan/school/school\\_guidance.html](http://www.flu.gov/plan/school/school_guidance.html)

<http://www.flu.gov/plan/school/toolkit.html>