

## K-12 PLANNING RESOURCES FOR THE 2009-2010 INFLUENZA SEASON

The following is an abbreviated version of the September 1 memo directed to superintendents, school board members, K-12 principals, school nurses, and K-12 teachers and school employees.

The Iowa Department of Education (DE) and the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) are working together to prepare for the 2009-2010 influenza season and are providing the following materials to assist Iowa's K-12 school officials in their 2009-2010 influenza season planning.

### **From the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):**

- 1) Technical Report for State and Local Public Health Officials and School Administrators on CDC Guidance for School (K-12) Responses to Influenza During the 2009-2010 School Year Link to report: [www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/schools/technicalreport.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/schools/technicalreport.htm)
- 2) Preparing for the Flu: A Communication Toolkit for Schools (Grades K-12) available at: [www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/schools/toolkit/pdf/schoolflutoolkit.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/schools/toolkit/pdf/schoolflutoolkit.pdf)

### **From IDPH and DE:**

- 3) Environmental cleaning and disinfection resources for influenza available at: <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/h1n1/schools.asp>
  - These documents provide recommendations for prioritizing cleaning efforts and clarify the types of cleaning products appropriate for influenza.
- 4) Letter template for schools to distribute to parents/guardians accessible at: <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/h1n1/schools.asp>
- 5) Advice for talking to students about influenza fact sheet accessible at: <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/h1n1/schools.asp>
- 6) Description of school reporting and surveillance systems
  - School absenteeism reporting: schools are asked to report absenteeism when 10 percent or more of the total enrollment is absent on any given day
  - Reports can be made by calling the IDPH Center for Acute Disease Epidemiology at (800) 362-2735 or by faxing the form available at the following link to (515) 281-5698: [http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/iowa\\_school\\_absenteeism.pdf](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/iowa_school_absenteeism.pdf)
  - The Iowa Influenza Surveillance Network (IISN) is recruiting schools to participate in the surveillance program. Additional information is available at: [http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/flu/flu\\_brochure.pdf](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/adper/common/pdf/flu/flu_brochure.pdf)
  - The CDC has developed an online novel influenza A (H1N1)-related school dismissal reporting system. For a description of this online system visit: <http://www.idph.state.ia.us/h1n1/schools.asp>

### **Additional Resources**

- 7) The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced circumstances in which schools and community organizations may continue to provide reimbursable meals to low-income children during school closures related to novel influenza A (H1N1). The DE will contact district school food authorities with this information.
- 8) CDC Seasonal flu and vaccine information and links to vaccine information statements <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/keyfacts.html>
- 9) Face masks. General Use of Face-Masks and Respirators to Prevent Influenza, May 2009 at [http://www.idph.state.ia.us/h1n1/common/pdf/h1n1\\_guidelines\\_on\\_masks\\_respirators.pdf](http://www.idph.state.ia.us/h1n1/common/pdf/h1n1_guidelines_on_masks_respirators.pdf) Interim Recommendations for Facemask and Respirator use to reduce influenza transmission, August 2009 at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/masks.html>
- 10) U.S. Department of Education recommendations, questions, and answers on continuity of learning should dismissal be necessary available at <http://www.ed.gov/adminis/lead/safety/emergencyplan/pandemic/index.html>

Please continually check for the influenza-like illnesses (ILI) updates at CDC <http://www.cdc.gov>. The CDC is a reliable, current information source and you may sign up for emails alerting you of updates.

Finally, we encourage you to access the IDPH website frequently for Iowa-specific updates. There is a page on the IDPH influenza website dedicated to K-12 School Guidance. All of the resources outlined in this memorandum are available on that web page. If you have any questions, please contact the Centers for Acute Disease Epidemiology at the Iowa Department of Public Health (800-362-2736) or Charlotte Burt at the Iowa Department of Education ([charlotte.burt@iowa.gov](mailto:charlotte.burt@iowa.gov)).