



Kenosha County Division of Health H1N1 Flu Information & Resources for Day Cares and Child Care Providers

September 11, 2009



Kenosha County Division of Health

H1N1 Flu Information and Resources for Day Cares & Child Care Providers

Background

Novel H1N1 (referred to as “swine flu” early on) is a new influenza virus causing illness in people. This new virus was first detected in people in the United States in April 2009. This virus is spreading from person-to-person worldwide, probably in much the same way that regular seasonal influenza viruses spread. On June 11, 2009, the World Health Organization (WHO) signaled that a pandemic of novel H1N1 flu was underway.

This document provides daycares with procedures for surveillance, guidance on child care center closures, and resources for when there is a confirmed case of H1N1 Flu in a child care center.

See [Attachment A: H1N1 Template Letter to Parents](#).

Signs & Symptoms of H1N1 Flu

- fever greater than 100 degrees
- body aches
- coughing
- sore throat
- respiratory congestion
- diarrhea and vomiting in some cases

Healthy Habits

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 15 seconds or use an alcohol based hand sanitizer when soap and water are not available.
- Cough or sneeze into your sleeve or cover your mouth and nose with a tissue.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Obtain the seasonal influenza vaccine.
- Stay home if you are sick
- People who are sick with an influenza-like illness (ILI) (see symptom list above) should stay home for at least 24 hours after fever is gone without the use of fever-reducing medications, stay away from others as much as possible, avoid travel, avoid large crowds, and contact your health care provider as needed.
- Avoid close contact with persons with ILI, including hand shaking.
- If contact is unavoidable, maintain an arm length distance from a person with ILI.
- Keep interactions as brief as possible with a person with ILI, or schedule interactions via telephone or after the person recovers.
- Disinfect high touch surfaces in your work area, i.e. telephone, keyboards, desk tops. Use appropriate cleaners for the surface area. Alcohol wipes are recommended for keyboards.
- Additional guidance will occur if the current mild level of illness becomes more severe and widespread in the community.

Kenosha County Division of Health

H1N1 Flu Information and Resources for Day Cares & Child Care Providers

Recommendations for Child Care Center Exclusion

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC):

- Individual with influenza-like illness should remain home for at least 24 hours after they are free of fever (> 100° F) without the use of fever-reducing medications. For most students, this period will be 3 to 5 day exclusion period.
- Antiviral medications do not decrease the period of infectivity.
- Ill students should be isolated from well students prior to exclusion from school.
- Routine cleaning is all that is necessary.

Absentee Reporting

Levels and kinds of absenteeism can provide valuable information to public health officials regarding normal disease activity at a particular time during the year and indicate early signs of disease and food borne outbreaks.

Child care centers should monitor absentee rates and notify the Kenosha County Division of Health at (262) 605-6700 if rates drastically increase. Absentee calls can be recorded using a tracking form (see [Attachment B, School Absentee Calls Tracking Form Template](#)).

Confirmed Case of H1N1 Flu in a Child Care Center

- A child care center will be notified by the Kenosha County Division of Health when they have a child with a confirmed case of H1N1 Flu.
- The child care center can send a letter to parents notifying them of the confirmed case and urging them to monitor their child for signs and symptoms of H1N1 Flu (see [Attachment C, Confirmed H1N1 Flu Template Letter to Parents](#)).
- This template letter can also be found at:
<http://www.co.kenosha.wi.us/dhs/Divisions/Health/NavPages/H1N1Schools-Daycares.php>.

Child Care Center Closings

Child care providers and public health officials should work closely together to balance the risks of illness spread and to decide if a child care center should close due to severe illness. The length of time child care centers may close will vary depending on the situation, the severity and extent of illness. Child care centers should consult with the Kenosha County Division of Health before closing due to illness and before reopening.

Kenosha County Division of Health H1N1 Flu Information and Resources for Day Cares & Child Care Providers

Targeted Groups for H1N1 Flu Vaccine

In mid October, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention anticipates that the H1N1 vaccine will be available through local public health departments and primary care providers. Targeted groups to receive the vaccine include:

- Pregnant women,
 - Household contacts and caregivers of children under 6 months (*who cannot receive a vaccination themselves*),
 - Health care workers & medical service personnel,
 - Children and adolescents aged 6mos -24yrs, and
 - Persons aged 25-64 years of age with certain Medical Conditions.
-
- At this time, teachers or child care providers, without other risk factors, are not considered a targeted group to receive vaccine due to the fact that most of the cases of severe illness have not occurred in the age group.
 - The Kenosha County Division of Health will be conducting school based vaccination clinics for H1N1 Flu.



COUNTY OF KENOSHA

Attachment A:

John Jansen
Department of Human Services

Frank G. Matteo, Director
Division of Health
8600 Sheridan Road, Suite 600
Kenosha WI 53143-6515
Phone: (262) 605-6700
Fax: (262) 605-6715

September 10, 2009

Dear Parent or Guardian,

As you may know, there is a new form of influenza in our community and in the world—H1N1 Flu (which has been called Swine Flu). H1N1 Flu can be easily spread from person to person. Therefore, we are taking steps to reduce the spread of this type of influenza in Kenosha County daycares. We want to keep the daycares open to children and functioning in a normal manner during this flu season but **we need your help to do this.**

The **## Child Care Center** and the Kenosha County Division of Health are working closely together to monitor both seasonal and H1N1 Flu conditions and provide action steps to prevent illness. One of these steps includes vaccinating children against the spread of H1N1 Flu. This is a different approach than in previous years because children seem to be more likely to develop or “catch” this type of influenza than older persons. For this reason, children are a target group for receiving the vaccine as soon as possible.

The Kenosha County Division of Health is planning to provide vaccinations in October and November or as soon as the vaccine is available. We will be providing more information on this program in the coming weeks.

In addition, here are actions steps you can do to help.

- **Keep sick children at home** for at least 24 hours *after* they no longer have fever or do not have signs of fever, without using fever-reducing drugs. Keeping children with a fever at home will reduce the number of people who may get infected.
- **Do not send children to daycare if they are sick.** Any children who are determined to be sick while at daycare *should be sent home.*
- **Have your child vaccinated against regular seasonal influenza.**
- **Teach your children to wash their hands** often with soap and water. You can set a good example by doing this yourself.
- **Know the signs and symptoms of the flu.** Symptoms of the flu include fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit, 37.8 degrees Celsius or greater), cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and feeling very tired. Some people may also vomit or have diarrhea.

For more information about flu in our community, please contact the Kenosha County Division of Health at (262) 605-6700, (800) 472-8008 or visit <http://www.co.kenosha.wi.us/dhs/Divisions/Health/NavPages/SwineFlu.php>. We will notify you of any additional changes to our strategy to prevent the spread of influenza.

Sincerely,

Frank G. Matteo
Health Officer/Director



COUNTY OF KENOSHA

Attachment C:

John Jansen
Department of Human Services

Frank G. Matteo, Director
Division of Health
8600 Sheridan Road, Suite 600
Kenosha WI 53143-6515
Phone: (262) 605-6700
Fax: (262) 605-6715

June 19, 2009

Dear Parent or Guardian,

The Kenosha County Division of Health would like to inform you that a confirmed case of H1N1 flu (swine flu) has been identified in a child attending ### Elementary School or Daycare. The child's family has been notified and the child will not be attending the facility until symptoms subside.

Local officials are continuing to monitor the outbreak of H1N1 flu (swine flu) in Kenosha County. H1N1 flu (swine flu) is spread similar to seasonal flu. Flu viruses are spread mainly from person to person through coughing or sneezing. People may also become ill by touching their mouth or nose with germs on their hands.

Although local, state, and federal agencies are working to contain this outbreak, there are simple steps you can do at home to keep your family healthy. These prevention steps include:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, or cough/sneeze into your sleeve. If you use a tissue, throw it in the trash after use and wash your hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- If you get sick, stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth to reduce the spread of germs.

The health department is urging parents to monitor their children for symptoms of H1N1 flu (swine flu). These include:

- fever greater than 100 degrees
- body aches
- coughing
- sore throat
- respiratory congestion

If your child experiences any of the above symptoms, please contact your health care provider and keep him/her home from school or daycare for at least 24 hours after resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications.

For more information, please contact the Kenosha County Division of Health at (262) 605-6700 or (800) 472-8008.

Sincerely,

Frank G. Matteo
Health Officer/Director

September 4, 2009 CDC Guidance on Helping Child Care and Early Childhood Programs Respond to Influenza during the 2009-2010 Influenza Season – can be found at

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/childcare/guidance.htm>.