

Milford Public Schools

H1N1 (Swine Flu) Update: as of May 11, 2009

The Milford Public Schools have been active participants in a multi-agency Swine Flu Task Force that has been meeting regularly for the past two weeks. This Task Force is comprised of several city and private agencies, as well as business agencies, including:

Office of the Mayor	Milford Health Dept.
Milford Public Schools	Milford Police Dept.
Milford Fire Dept.	EMS Services (AMR)
American Red Cross	Milford Hospital
Milford Chamber of Commerce	United Way
Westfield/CT Post Mall	Milford Bank
Orange EMS	Orange Fire Dept.
Orange Health Dept.	Stratford Health Dept.
Stratford Fire Dept.	West Haven Health Dept.
West Haven Fire Dept.	

Communication is efficient, updates are immediate, and cooperation is strong amongst the groups involved. Milford clearly is 'ahead of the curve' with regard to having a plan in place and in keeping its residents informed.

Personal Safeguards

Basic common sense practices, here, folks. To reduce your exposure to the H1N1 (or any!) virus:

- ◆ Wash your hands with soap and water -- often!
- ◆ Use tissue when you cough or sneeze and throw the tissue away in a covered trash bin.
- ◆ If you feel ill, stay home! This applies to everyone -- children and adults alike.

Regarding School Cleanings

Our custodial and maintenance staff members have stepped up their cleaning routines at each of our buildings. Extra emphasis is being given to common surface areas, such as water fountains, doorknobs, doorways, desk areas, keyboards, phones, etc. Every school has several hand-sanitizer stations throughout the building -- and

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our custodians have been making sure they are clean and stocked at all times. There is plenty of hand-sanitizer available in all buildings.

Regarding Testing for Flu

Residents are urged to contact their family physician, if they are not feeling well, for guidance. A physician will provide you with additional direction.

Statistical Monitoring

Our school nurses have been monitoring and tracking the number of absences of both students and staff in their buildings. The Health Dept. is also working with several large corporations in Milford to track absenteeism in those facilities, as well.

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This information will help the Health Dept. identify areas that may be showing a 'spike' in the number of flu-related cases and cause further investigation.

While we anticipate that we will have cases in school-age children in the coming days and months ahead like other communities, **we do NOT have a cluster of influenza-like illness (ILI) in any of our schools at this time.**

School Closures

It is important to note that even if a student in our community tests positive for H1N1, it may not necessarily cause school closures in Milford.

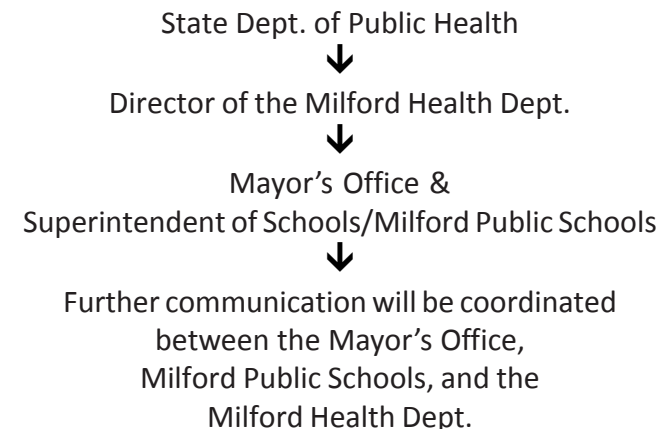
In conjunction with the Health Dept., we will be watching for larger numbers of cases (outbreaks) of residents with flu-like symptoms.

Based on the direction we have received from the State Dept. of Education, school districts should only be closed in cases where it becomes impossible to deliver education without serious disruption (i.e. absenteeism throughout the district, including teachers, staff, students becomes too significant).

It is for this reason that we are monitoring absenteeism in our schools, and watching for the data being collected by the Health Dept. relating to absenteeism in the local business community.

Communication Process

At this time, tests for determining if someone has the H1N1 (swine flu) virus can only be conducted at the State Public Health Dept. Here is how we will receive information relating to H1N1 testing and/or the confirmation of an outbreak:



Stay the Course

At this time, we ask all members of our school community to remain calm and to stay vigilant in stepping up their personal health techniques. Wash your hands. Stay home if you don't feel well. Know that we will keep you informed via Connect-ED should there be any changes in procedure.

For Questions

As the lead local agency, the Milford Health Dept. has the most updated information regarding the H1N1 flu. As such, individuals with questions or concerns should contact the Milford Health Dept. directly at (203) 783-3285.