



Mark Parkinson, Governor  
Roderick L. Bremby, Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
AND ENVIRONMENT

[www.kdheks.gov](http://www.kdheks.gov)

Division of Health

August 7, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians:

This letter is to replace the guidance provided earlier regarding the possible closure of child care programs due to suspected or confirmed cases of infection with the 2009 Influenza A (H1N1) virus. This updated guidance is consistent with new advice received from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and reflects our current understanding of the severity and spread of the outbreak. These are our recommendations, effective immediately:

Be alert and observe your child closely for signs of flu-like illness (fever with a cough or sore throat). Children with flu-like illness should not attend child care and should stay home, away from other children and adults until at least 24 hours after they are free of fever (100° F [37.8°C]). The fever should be gone without the use of fever-reducing medications. Ill children should not attend another child care program or group setting.

Generally, closure of a child care program is not advised for a suspected or confirmed case of influenza, unless the child care program is located in a person's residence and the provider or someone else living in the residence becomes ill with flu-like illness (fever with a cough or sore throat). In these instances, the provider may be advised to temporarily close and not provide child care. Child care could resume once all sick residents of the home have remained fever free, without the use of fever-reducing medications, for at least 24 hours.

For child care programs not located in a person's residence, closure is not advised unless the number of staff or children absent due to illness interferes with the child care program's ability to function.

Parents and guardians can help to promote ways to reduce the spread of influenza, including hand hygiene and cough etiquette. Parents and children should stringently follow sanitary measures to reduce the spread of flu, 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 running water, or using hand sanitizer if hand washing with soap and water is not possible.

Your partnership with us in reducing the impact of H1N1 flu on the health of Kansas communities is essential. We will continue to communicate with you as our scientific and medical understanding grows. Thank you for all you are doing to safeguard the health of children and others in your community.

Yours sincerely,

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