



County of San Diego

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

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Community Epidemiology
Emergency & Disaster Medical Services
HIV, STD and Hepatitis
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Public Health Laboratory
PH Nursing/Border Health
TB Control & Refugee Health
Vital Records

May 5, 2009

Dr. Terry B. Grier, Superintendent
San Diego Unified School District
4100 Normal St.
San Diego, CA 92103

Dr. Grier:

This letter serves as notice that the San Diego School for the Creative and Performing Arts, which dismissed students in response to probable cases (now confirmed) of the H1N1 virus, may reopen. This clearance is made in light of the May 5, 2009 update to *School (K – 12) Dismissal and Childcare Facilities: Interim CDC Guidance in Response to Human Infections with the 2009 Influenza A H1N1 Virus*.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is now recommending that the primary means to reduce spread of influenza in schools should focus on the early identification of ill students and staff, staying home when ill, and good cough and hand hygiene. Therefore, the CDC is no longer advising to dismiss students from schools as a result of one (1) suspected or confirmed case of novel influenza A (H1N1). However, please note that for the future, CDC does recommend that if there is a magnitude of faculty or student absenteeism that interferes with the school's ability to function that school closure would be recommended.

The following recommendations from the CDC are contained in the May 5 update:

- Students, faculty or staff with influenza-like illness (fever with a cough or sore throat) should stay home and not attend school or go into the community except to seek medical care for at least 7 days even if symptoms resolve sooner.
- Students, faculty and staff who are still sick 7 days after they become ill should continue to stay home from school until at least 24 hours after symptoms have resolved.
- Students, faculty and staff who appear to have an influenza-like illness at arrival or become ill during the school day should be isolated promptly in a room separate from other students and sent home.
- Parents and guardians should monitor their school-aged children, and faculty and staff should self-monitor every morning for symptoms of influenza-like illness.

- Ill students should not attend alternative child care or congregate in other settings..
- School administrators should communicate regularly with local public health officials to obtain guidance about reporting of influenza-like illnesses in the school.

Thank you for your continued collaboration as we address this disease in our community. We will continue to monitor and evaluate the situation and keep you informed of changes affecting recommendations to dismiss students. If you have any questions, please contact the community Epidemiology Branch at (619) 515-6620. General inquiries about this disease in our community should be directed to 2-1-1.

Sincerely,

Wilma J. Wooten, M.D., M.P.H.
Public Health Officer