



Mark Parkinson, Governor  
Roderick L. Bremby, Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
AND ENVIRONMENT

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

Division of Health

May 4, 2009

Dear Child Care Provider:

This letter is to update you on the Swine Flu in Kansas, also called H1N1 flu.

As you are aware, a new flu virus (H1N1) is circulating in several countries, including the United States. Although most cases so far in our country have been relatively mild, severe disease as a result of infection is possible. To date two cases from a single household have been confirmed in Kansas, and other probable cases are being investigated.

If confirmed or suspect cases of H1N1 flu are identified in your county, your local health department may need to implement measures to reduce spread of the virus, including the possibility of temporarily closing schools and child care programs.

- If a child in your care, a staff member, a volunteer in your child care program, or someone living in your day care home has a flu-like illness you must notify your local health department right away.
- If local or state health department officials notify you of the need to close your child care program, work closely with them to notify parents, and discuss with them what you need to do before reopening.
- When you talk with parents about closing the child care program let them know that their child should not be taken to another child care program or group setting. Limiting exposure to others is essential for reducing the spread of the disease in a community.

There is much you can do now to prevent H1N1 flu from spreading in your child care program:

- Remain alert and observe children closely for signs of flu-like illness, including fever, cough, muscle aches and fatigue. Children with flu-like illness should be isolated away from the other children, and their parents should be notified to pick up their children immediately.
- Remind parents of your policies regarding the care of sick children, and let parents know they should not bring any child to the child care program if the child has a flu-like illness. Parents should contact their doctor for evaluation and testing when flu-like illness occurs.
- Continue to practice healthy habits to reduce the spread of disease, including frequent hand-washing with soap and running water for 20 seconds, and covering your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.

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As we continue to monitor the situation in Kansas, all of us must work together to keep our communities safe from this new virus. You can learn more about the current flu situation by contacting your local health department and visiting our department's website at [www.kdheks.gov](http://www.kdheks.gov).

Our partnership in reducing the impact of H1N1 flu on the health of Kansas communities is essential. Thank you for all you are doing to safeguard the health of children and others in your community.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jason Eberhart-Phillips MD". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a distinct "MD" at the end.

Jason Eberhart-Phillips, MD, MPH  
Kansas State Health Officer  
Director, Division of Health, KDHE