



Mark Parkinson, Governor
Roderick L. Bremby, Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND ENVIRONMENT

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Division of Health

August 7, 2009

Dear Health Department Administrators and Child Care Surveyors:

Updated Interim Guidance for Possible Closure of Child Day Care Facilities and Day Care Homes Due to 2009 H1N1 Flu

This letter is to replace the guidance we sent you on May 7 regarding 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:

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 child care provider or someone else living in the residence becomes ill with flu-like illness (fever with a cough or sore throat).

When the child care program is located in a person's residence, and the provider or someone else living in the home becomes ill with flu-like illness, the provider should temporarily close. Sick individuals should stay home and not go into the community except to seek medical care until at least 24 hours after the individual is free of fever (100° F [37.8°C]). The fever should be gone without the use of fever-reducing medications. Child care may 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 even for multiple suspected or confirmed cases, unless there is a magnitude of staff or child absenteeism that interferes with the child care program's ability to function.

Children or staff with influenza-like illness (fever with a cough or sore throat) should stay home and not attend a child care program, or work go into the community except to seek medical care 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.

A child of any age, or staff, who appear to have an influenza-like illness at arrival or become ill during the day should be isolated promptly in a room or area separate from other children and sent home. Children, isolated due to illness, are to be supervised as required by regulation.

Parents and guardians should monitor their children, and child care providers and staff should monitor themselves, every morning for symptoms of influenza-like illness. If ill, children must not attend any child care program or group setting.

Child care providers should communicate regularly with local public health officials to obtain guidance about reporting of influenza-like illnesses in the child care program. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment is also ready to consult with local health departments and child care programs on this matter.

Child care providers can help to promote ways to reduce the spread of influenza, including hand hygiene and cough etiquette. Children, child care providers and staff should stringently follow sanitary measures to reduce the spread of influenza, 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.

We appreciate the efforts that local health departments and child care programs have taken to protect children, staff and the wider community from infection with this new virus. We will continue to communicate with you as our scientific and medical understanding grows.

Thank you for your work to protect your local communities.

Yours sincerely,

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

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