

Pandemic Preparation

Whitley County is Ready
Are you Ready?

Information Sources

- All information is based on the Center of Disease Control (CDC) guidelines, State & County Health Department guidelines, and directives from Cathy Broxon-Ball, the Whitley County Emergency Preparedness Director from the Department of Homeland Security

Symptoms of novel H1N1:

- Influenza-like-illness is defined as fever (temperature of 100°F/ 37.8°C or greater) and a cough, and/or a sore throat in the absence of a known cause other than influenza.
- People experiencing influenza-like-illness are encouraged to call their doctor if they have a chronic illness or are pregnant, or if they have difficulty breathing, chest pain, confusion, or persistent vomiting.

2009 H1N1 Influenza Virus

- **STATISTICS:**
- Total U.S. H1N1 Flu Information
(As of August 29, 2009, 11:00 AM ET; week 34)
- Reporting States and Territories* 50
- Laboratory confirmed cases: 755 in U.S.
- 0 confirmed cases in Whitley County as of 9-10-09

*Includes the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

- **Q. What can families, students, and school personnel do to keep from getting sick and spreading flu?**
- **A. Families, students, and staff members can keep from getting sick with the flu in three ways:**
 1. Practice good hand hygiene.
Wash your hands; wash your hands.

2. Practice good respiratory etiquette.

- The main way the flu spreads is from person to person in the droplets produced by coughs and sneezes.
- It is important to cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow or shoulder, not into your hands.

3. Stay home if you are sick.

- Students are to be fever-free for 24 hours without medication before they return to school.
- Teachers send students to the clinic if they report to school the next day.

– Q. Can the virus live on surfaces, such as computer keyboards?

- A. Yes, flu viruses may be spread when a person touches droplets left by coughs and sneezes on hard surfaces (such as desks or door knobs) or objects (such as keyboards or pens) and then touches his or her mouth or nose. **However, it is not necessary to disinfect these surfaces beyond routine cleaning.**
- Clean surfaces and items that are more likely to have frequent hand contact with cleaning agents that are usually used in these areas.

- **Q. What are the plans for developing the novel H1N1 vaccine?**

A. Vaccines are the most powerful public health tool for the control of influenza, and the U.S. government is working closely with manufacturers to manufacture a novel H1N1 vaccine.

- **Q. When is it expected that the novel H1N1 vaccine will be available?**

A. The novel H1N1 vaccine is expected to be available in mid to late October. It is a 2 shot series, or you may have the nasal spray for one in the series.

- **Q. Will the seasonal flu vaccine also protect against the novel H1N1 flu?**

A. The seasonal flu vaccine is not expected to protect against the novel H1N1 flu.

- **Q. Who will be recommended as priority groups to receive the novel H1N1 vaccine?**

A. Key Populations Identified:

- pregnant women
- people who live with or care for children younger than 6 months of age
- healthcare and emergency medical services personnel,
- persons between the ages of 6 months and 24 years old
- people ages of 25 through 64 years of age who are at higher risk for novel H1N1 because of chronic health disorders or compromised immune systems.
- assess supply and demand issues at the local level

WCCS Student Illness Plan

- The nurse or office nurse assistant will assess the sick student.
 - Health history will be evaluated
 - Temperature will be taken & symptoms assessed
 - If student is classified as having the flu (either by sign/symptoms or fever) a mouth mask will be placed on student
 - Parent/guardian will be called to come pick up the student from school
 - Teachers are notified of ill students sent home with a fever.
 - Remember >> 24 hours fever-free without medication before returning to school
 - Teachers will send students to the clinic if they report to school the next day for reassessment.

Planning and Communication is Ongoing

- The County Pandemic Planning Committee has been meeting since January 2007. This group includes: Cathy Broxon-Ball, WCCS, County Health Department, Red Cross, Salvation Army, etc.
- A WCCS team first began to meet in January 2007.
- An Informational letter from Dr. Laura and a Family Preparedness Guide from the Red Cross were sent to WCCS parents in February 2007.
- Annual K, 1st and 2nd grade hand washing presentations continue
- The WCCS nurses lead staff presentations & email Power Points regularly.
- The WCCS nurses include flu information in their monthly articles in parent newsletters (Flu was the focus in the September 2009 newsletters.)
- The County-wide Health Pandemic Response Plan was completed August 2009 & approved by the County Commissioners & State Board of Health
- A County-wide drill for a virus outbreak (assessment of s/s, medication distribution, crowd control, traffic patterns, inoculations, etc.) was executed on June 9, 2009 at ISMS as a county site. The county scored a 100% from the State Board of Health.
- On-going planning: food to WCCS families in need, education via radio, WCCS web site updates.
- Another county-wide meeting is being planned for the near future to collaborate across school districts and learn the latest information.

Educating the Community

- An informational letter from Dr. Laura Huffman will be shared via school websites for the corporation, local sources such as The Post and Mail and Talk of the Town Whitley County and in school newsletters. This PowerPoint will be shared with the community.
- Students, staff members, and their families must take personal responsibility for helping to slow the spread of the virus.
- Be informed. Information Sources:

www.cdc.gov/H1N1FLU/

www.flu.gov

The Post and Mail

School Newsletters & Web Site

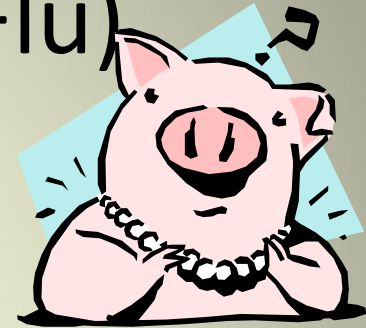
Video Announcements

Have a Plan for Home

- Back up baby sitter
- Keep telephone numbers current
- Get a thermometer now
- Stock up on Tylenol & Ibuprofen now
- Stock your pantry
- Stock up on books, games & videos

Influenza and Pandemic Flu Guidelines (Bird Flu and Swine Flu)

- Cover your cough and sneezes



- WASH your HANDS



- STAY HOME if you are sick!
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- STAY HOME if you are sick!
- **Have a Plan for Home**

