



*State of New Jersey*

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SENIOR SERVICES**  
DIVISION OF EPIDEMIOLOGY, ENVIRONMENTAL AND OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH  
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HEATHER HOWARD  
*Commissioner*

To: School Administrators and Local Health Departments

From: New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS)  
New Jersey Department of Education (NJDOE)

Date: November 2, 2009

Re: Influenza Surveillance in Schools

In spring 2009, a newly identified influenza virus, 2009 Influenza A (H1N1), began circulating in many communities in New Jersey and the United States. Epidemiologic information collected during the spring revealed that many cases occurred in school-aged children. For the majority of these cases, infection with the virus resulted in a mild illness.

The 2009 H1N1 influenza virus has circulated at low levels near the end of this summer, and health officials expect that throughout the fall new cases of 2009 H1N1 and routine seasonal influenza will continue to circulate. In an effort to provide guidance to schools on how to manage influenza illnesses, NJDHSS and NJDOE are providing the attached surveillance recommendations.

NJDHSS and NJDOE encourage all districts and schools to continue to take a proactive approach by informing parents, students, and staff about their policies with regard to influenza preparedness and response. Every district should work with the local health department covering their jurisdiction. Local health departments can assist schools in monitoring their population for illness and provide recommendations regarding appropriate public health control measures.

Thank you for all your efforts to keep our students safe so they may continue the learning process. We wish you a safe, healthy and productive school year.