



# New Hampshire Health Alert Network

## Health.Alert@nh.gov

**Message Type:** Update NH-HAN 20090425 Swine Influenza  
**Status:** Actual  
**Severity:** Moderate  
**Sensitive:** Not Sensitive  
**Message Identifier:** NH-HAN #20090427 Swine Influenza  
**Delivery Time:** 6 hours  
**Acknowledgement:** No  
**Originating Agency:** NH Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services

---

**DATE:** April 27, 2009 **TIME:** 8:45 PM

**TO:** NH Schools, AHHR, DPHS Management Team, Investigation Team

**FROM:** José T. Montero, MD, Director of the NH Division of Public Health Services

**SUBJECT:** Advisory on Swine Flu Outbreak

The New Hampshire (NH) Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is increasing its surveillance efforts in response to cases of swine influenza in the United States. On Sunday, April 26, the federal government declared a public health emergency in order to more readily provide support for ongoing state efforts. At this time, **there are no confirmed cases of swine influenza in New Hampshire.**

### **NH Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS) recommends:**

- Maintain general health and hygiene activities in your school. Remind all students and staff of the importance of regular hand-washing and use of alcohol hand gels, no sharing of drinking containers, and coughing/sneezing into the elbow.
- Follow normal protocol for any student who presents with respiratory symptoms: send them home and recommend they see their health care provider if necessary.
- If a student has returned from an affected geographic area\*, for 7 days following their return, they should report first thing each morning to the school nurse to be screened for symptoms of influenza-like-illness\* and be advised to return if symptoms develop during the day. It is not necessary to restrict asymptomatic students from school.
- If the student being monitored becomes symptomatic, the student should be restricted from school until they have been evaluated. Please contact NH DHHS Communicable Disease Section 603-271-4496 immediately.
- School nurses should report higher than normal absenteeism to NH DHHS Communicable Disease Section 603-271-4496.
- We do not recommend canceling any events or closing any schools at this time. We recommend consulting with NH DHHS Communicable Disease Section before considering any actions outside of your standard protocols.
- Consider the use of attached parent letter template as an informational tool.

Please refer to the CDC website for daily updates on the outbreak and publication of interim guidance at: <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>

---

**For any questions regarding the contents of this message, please contact NH DHHS Communicable Disease Control and Surveillance Section at 603-271-4496 (after hours 1-800-852-3345 ext.5300).**

---

## DEFINITION OF TERMS AND ALERTING VOCABULARY

### Message Type

- Alert: Indicates an original alert
- Update: Indicates prior alert has been updated and superseded
- Cancel: Indicates prior alert has been cancelled
- Error: Indicates prior alert has been retracted

### Status

- Actual: Communication or alert refers to a live event
- Exercise: Designated recipients must respond to the communication or alert
- Test: Communication or alert is related to a technical, system test and should be disregarded

### Severity

- Extreme: Extraordinary threat to life or property
- Severe: Significant threat to life or property
- Moderate: Possible threat to life or property
- Minor: Minimal threat to life or property
- Unknown: Unknown threat to life or property

### Sensitive

- Sensitive: Indicates the alert contains sensitive content
- Not Sensitive: Indicates non-sensitive content

**Message Identifier:** A unique alert identifier that is generated upon alert activation.

**Delivery Time:** Indicates the timeframe for delivery of the alert.

**Acknowledgement:** Indicates whether an acknowledgement on the part of the recipient is required to confirm that the alert was received, and the timeframe in which a response is required.

**Originating Agency:** A guaranteed unique identifier for the agency originating the alert.

**Alerting Program:** The program sending the alert or engaging in alerts and communications using PHIN Communication and Alerting (PCA) as a vehicle for their delivery.

**You have received this message based upon the information contained within our emergency notification database.**

**If you have a different or additional e-mail or fax address that you would prefer to be used please contact:**

Denise M. Krol, MS  
NH HAN Coordinator  
[Denise.Krol@dhhs.state.nh.us](mailto:Denise.Krol@dhhs.state.nh.us)

**Business Hours 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM**  
Tel: 603-271-4596  
Fax: 603-271-0545