

Please place in 137F H, N, Folder.  
It is from the NEA - neahin.org - website.  
You can access excellent information from it.  
R1

IN ACTION | HEALTH & SAFETY | RESOURCES | NEWS | CONTACT US |

Search

## H1N1(Swine Flu)

### What is H1N1?

Novel H1N1 (formerly referred to as "swine flu") is a respiratory illness caused by the Influenza A virus that can be transmitted among humans. In April of 2009, a surge of cases were documented by The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The primary mode of transmission is through personal contact - touching, kissing, coughing, and sneezing - very similar to the way that seasonal influenza virus is spread. SEE our H1N1 article in the August NEAToday Express

NEA HIN advocates that you follow the guidelines for prevention and mitigation of H1N1 as defined by the CDC and flu.gov. Schools should pay special attention to the CDC Guidance for State and Local Public Health Officials and School Administrators for School (K-12) Responses to Influenza during the 2009-2010 School Year. These include being aware of the symptoms and taking the proper precautions to plan for and avoid the virus.

If you or someone you know is sick  
Influenza of any sort should be taken seriously and in the event that you or someone you come into contact with gets sick, HIN, along with the CDC and Department of Education, recommend that you make safe and healthy decisions to avoid spreading contact. If you or someone you know is in a high risk category, follow these recommendations.

### What about schools and school closure?

The most important thing to keep in mind is proper hygiene, respiratory etiquette, and routine cleaning. In addition to making safe and healthy personal choices, it MAY become necessary to close schools (and eventually re-open them) to avoid unnecessary social contact and gatherings. More school specific information can be found here.

### The H1N1 Vaccine

As of late August - H1N1 vaccinations are in the final stages of human trials and are expected to be available for distribution in the United States in mid-October. H1N1 and seasonal flu will each have their own vaccines. While the seasonal flu vaccine will remain available to all who wish to receive it, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has developed guidance for who should receive the H1N1 vaccine. As stated above, NEA HIN advocates that you follow the guidelines for prevention and mitigation of H1N1 as defined by the CDC and flu.gov and seek out the H1N1 vaccine if you are in a high risk group.

### Stay up-to-date

Please be sure to, independently or through intermediaries, stay up to date with your local health department as they are the ultimate decision maker regarding epidemics and mitigation in your area while planning and preparing to successfully overcome H1N1.

## Resources

Talking to kids about H1N1

Department of Education Question and Answers

Public health information at the centers for disease control and prevention

Reference Guide, 2nd Edition (2009) for guidance on cleaning and sanitizing in schools

The EPA provides a list of EPA-registered products effective against flu

CDC Question & Answers: H1N1 Influenza and You

CDC H1N1 Flu Key Facts

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Clean Hands Coalition

National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases

School Network for Absenteeism Prevention

Soap and Detergent Association

IN ACTION | HEALTH & SAFETY | RESOURCES | NEWS | CONTACT US |

Search

NEA Health Information Network is affiliated with the National Education Association