

Harris County  
**HCPHES**  
Public Health & Environmental Services

Herminia Palacio, M.D., M.P.H.  
Executive Director  
2223 West Loop South  
Houston, Texas 77027  
Tele: (713) 439-6000  
Fax: (713) 439-6080

Rita Obey  
Director  
Office of Public Information  
2223 West Loop South  
Houston, Texas 77027  
Tele: (713) 439-6246  
Fax: (713) 439-6362

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## Media Advisory

### HCPHES Announces New School/Daycare Guidance & Recommendations

#### **New School/Daycare Guidance Announced by CDC**

Based on new information about the novel H1N1 virus and because most U.S. cases have only resulted in illness similar to seasonal flu, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has revised its school/daycare closure guidance. Effective May 5, 2009, the CDC no longer recommends school closure due to a suspected or confirmed case of H1N1 (swine flu) unless there is a level of illness that interferes with the school/daycare's ability to function.

#### **HCPHES Recommendation/Activities**

Based on this new CDC guidance, effective immediately, Harris County Public Health & Environmental Services (HCPHES) recommends that all schools/daycares previously closed as a result of a confirmed or probable case of H1N1 (swine flu) re-open at the discretion of its leadership.

Please keep in mind that *we expect to continue to see illness*. As a result, it's very important that anyone who becomes sick with a influenza-like illness (**fever**, tiredness, cough, sore throat) stay home for at least seven (7) days - *even if you feel better* - or until your symptoms go away (which ever is longer).

Also, everyone should be careful to continue to follow stringent hand washing procedures.

Please note: the HCPHES Phone Bank will close today, May 5, 2009 at 6:00pm.

For more information, contact Rita Obey @ (713) 439.6293, Sandy Kachur @ (713) 439-6292 or Martha Garza @ (713) 439-6193.