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Influenza-Like Illness Outbreak Information for Schools September 29, 2009

Pandemic H1N1 Influenza activity continues throughout Riverside County. As of September 25, 2009, 447 cases have been reported with six deaths. The Department of Public Health has received reports of six schools with influenza-like illness outbreaks. Schools are encouraged to take the following actions:

Exclusion Recommendations

- Individuals who have influenza-like illness should be excluded until at least 24 hours after they are free of fever (100°F), without fever reducing medications.
- Staff or students who become ill while at school should be sent home. Students should be placed in a separate room while waiting to be picked up by parents.
- Parents should be encouraged not to send their children who have respiratory illness to school.

Disease Reporting

- Promptly report respiratory illness outbreaks to Disease Control at 951-358-5107.
- The case definition for a suspect H1N1 case is: individuals < 60 years with a fever \geq 100°F and cough.

Hand Hygiene

- Encourage frequent and thorough hand washing by students and staff. Consider providing alcohol-based hand sanitizers if allowed by school district policy.

Respiratory Etiquette

- Encourage students and staff to cover their nose and mouth with tissue when coughing and sneezing. Tissues should be thrown in the trash. If tissue is not immediately available, individuals should be educated to cough into their arm or sleeve. Stress the importance of hand washing after coughing or sneezing.

Routine Cleaning

- Schools should regularly clean all areas and items that are more likely to have frequent hand contact (e.g. keyboards, desks, etc.). Cleaning agents that are routinely used by the district should be utilized.
- The EPA provides a list of EPA-registered products effective against influenza at www.epa.gov/oppad001/influenza-disinfectants.html.