

Updated May 4, 2009

H1N1 [Swine] Flu Frequently Asked Questions

What is the Adams 12 Five Star Schools plan for addressing the H1N1 influenza outbreak?

Adams 12 Five Star Schools will follow the Tri-County Health guidelines for when to close a school. Those guidelines call for individual schools to be closed as soon as a student or staff member in that school is diagnosed with a confirmed case of H1N1 flu. Tri-County Health will do an investigation to see if there are student siblings or staff members in that family. If other family members aren't symptomatic, we'll simply send them home as a precaution to help protect other schools. If other family members at a different school are symptomatic, then we will likely close that school too. Of course, the plan could change given any number of other circumstances.

Why is Adams 12 Five Star Schools so concerned with the swine flu when there isn't a confirmed case in our district?

Adams 12 Five Star Schools is taking a proactive approach to planning for the possibility of a confirmed case of H1N1 Swine flu in our district and acting in accordance with directives given from the CDC. We want to be as prepared as possible should this strain of flu be identified within our district.

Who makes the decision to close school as a result of the H1N1 outbreak?

The superintendent will work closely with state and local public health officials to make the ultimate decision about any school closure. District leaders are in constant communication with both the Tri-County Health Department and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. We will collaborate with these agencies about when to close a school and when it is safe to re-open any schools that have been closed.

What should families do to prepare?

Schools and childcare facilities in unaffected areas should begin to prepare for the possibility of school dismissal or childcare facility closure. Parents should plan for caring for children who may be dismissed from schools, as these decisions may be made very quickly based on emerging disease in the community.

Will all schools in the district be closed if H1N1 (swine) flu is confirmed in an Adams 12 school?

No. The current recommendation from the CDC is to only close the school that is directly impacted by the H1N1 outbreak. However, recommendations for school dismissal can change based on new guidelines given by state and local health departments.

How long will a school be closed?

Updated guidelines from the CDC call for a school to close for seven to 14 days. If your child's school is closed, you will be notified as to how long it will be closed.

Can the sibling of a student with H1N1 (swine) flu attend school?

The current recommendation calls for siblings of an infected family member to stay home until 24 hours after that family member's symptoms have resolved. This precaution will help protect others at the school from possible exposure to the illness.

What should I do if I think my child has the flu?

Anyone who is sick should stay home. CDC recommends that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.

If my child is sent home with flu-like symptoms, when can my child return to school?

Tri-County Health officials advise that children with mild flu symptoms be kept at home until 24 hours after those symptoms resolve. Parents whose children have more severe symptoms are advised to call their family doctor and seek medical attention. Any student who returns to school and continues to show flu-like symptoms will be sent home again.

Are there plans to continue educating students during an extended school closure?

District and building staff are in the process of finalizing plans for continued learning in the event of an extended school closure. Details for how parents and students can access these resources will be distributed once an individual school is closed.

Is the district cancelling any school activities due to H1N1 (swine) flu?

No activities have been cancelled at this time. If a school is closed, then all school activities for that school will be cancelled or postponed.

What should students do if the superintendent closes their school?

In the rare event that schools would be closed by the superintendent in consultation with local or state health officials, students will be directed to return home and stay home during the school closure. Closing school is a last resort and is only effective for disease containment if students eliminate contact with others by staying home.

Where can I find out more information about H1N1 (swine) flu?

These resources have been the most helpful when gathering information about this flu outbreak.

United States Center for Disease Control: www.cdc.gov

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment: www.cdphe.state.co.us

Tri-County Health Department: www.tchd.org