

The ISDH sent out the following release statewide to the media this afternoon:

**For Immediate Release
August 27, 2009**

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STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT CONTINUES TO MONITOR PANDEMIC H1N1 INFLUENZA

INDIANAPOLIS---The Indiana State Department of Health continues to monitor pandemic H1N1 influenza in the state. The State Labs are only confirming influenza samples submitted from influenza sentinel physicians or from flu-related deaths. State health officials say any current flu activity is most likely the novel H1N1 flu, and additional confirmatory testing is not necessary.

State health officials say they and local health department staff are working with schools in accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently issued "Guidance for State & Local Public Health Officials and School Administrators for School (K-12) Responses to Influenza During the 2009-2010 School Year" and accompanying communication toolkit.

The guidance specifically includes recommended school responses under conditions with similar severity as spring 2009 and under conditions with increased severity compared with spring 2009. Among other topics, the CDC addresses the separation of ill students and staff, when to stay home, hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, routine cleaning, active screening, and school dismissals.

Health officials continue to recommend taking these everyday steps to protect your health:

- Clean – properly wash your hands frequently.
- Cover – cover your cough and sneeze.
- Contain – contain your germs by staying home when you are sick.

To date, a total of 320 cases of the pandemic H1N1 influenza have been laboratory confirmed in the state, including four deaths, for 2009.

For more information, go to www.in.gov/flu.

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