

# Commonwealth of Pennsylvania



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
HARRISBURG

THE SECRETARY  
EVERETTE JAMES

THE SECRETARY  
GERALD L. ZAHORCHAK

September 3, 2009

Dear School Officials:

As a new school year begins, the Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Pennsylvania Department of Health will be continuing our collaborative effort to communicate with Pennsylvanians about the H1N1 virus and its potential impact on schools. To that end, we are asking for your help in distributing the attached materials:

\* A letter to teachers that we ask you to share with your faculty.

\* A letter to families detailing the spread of the H1N1 virus over the last several months and providing information on pandemic prevention, including the potential for school closures and the availability of vaccines. We ask that you send this letter and information to all parents/guardians under your signature. This letter is being translated into multiple languages and will soon be available on the Department of Health's website – [www.health.state.pa.us](http://www.health.state.pa.us).


\* A list of "Top 10 Tips for Preventing the Spread of Flu."

Your cooperation in this effort is critical to curbing the spread of H1N1 and other influenza viruses. As you know, a flu outbreak in a school can have devastating academic and financial impacts on students, families and staff. By taking some very simple steps to help prevent the spread of flu viruses, we can help ensure a productive school year.

Thank you for your assistance in this important effort. Please remember to visit the Department of Health's website, [www.health.state.pa.us](http://www.health.state.pa.us), for routine updates on the monitoring and mitigation of the pandemic influenza.

Regards,

  
Everette James

  
Gerald L. Zahorchak, D.Ed.

Attachments