

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tyler Mountain YMCA to Close Daycare Facility

On Sunday, June 21, 2009, the YMCA of the Kanawha Valley notified the Kanawha-Charleston Health Department (KCHD) of two (2) suspected H1N1 influenza cases in siblings that attended the day care program at the Tyler Mountain YMCA. As of today, twenty-four children and four staff members are reporting influenza like symptoms with 3 laboratory confirmed cases of H1N1. In a joint press conference this morning, the John Giroir, President of the YMCA of the Kanawha Valley and Dr. Rahul Gupta, the KCHD Executive Director and Health Officer announced that the YMCA has decided to voluntarily close the Tyler Mountain YMCA daycare and summer camp program until Monday, June 29th. The exercise facility will remain open. KCHD is monitoring the disease cluster at this facility, which is similar to the pattern seen in several other communities throughout the United States. This indicates what we already know – that the spread is occurring within communities. Most U.S. cases have not been severe and are comparable in severity to seasonal influenza. KCHD agrees that the magnitude of children and staff absenteeism is currently interfering with the day care's ability to function. In the meanwhile, this will provide an opportunity for the facility to perform the routine cleaning and disinfection strategies used during influenza season to be applied to the environmental management of H1N1 Influenza. Management of frequently-touched surfaces, (such as desks, doorknobs, computer keyboards, and toys), laundry, and utensils should also be performed in accordance with procedures followed for seasonal influenza. The incubation period for this illness is 1 to 4 days. With seasonal flu, studies have shown that people may be contagious from one day before they develop symptoms to up to 7 days after they get sick. Children, especially younger children, might potentially be contagious for longer periods.

CDC recommends that the primary means to reduce spread of influenza in schools and child care programs is to focus on early identification of ill students and staff, staying home when ill and good cough and hand hygiene etiquette. Therefore, we are recommending that children and staff who may be exhibiting an influenza like illness (any fever, cough and/or sore throat in the absence of a known cause other than influenza) should not attend the facility when it reopens and be advised to stay home for 7 days after the onset of illness or at least 24 hours after symptoms have resolved, whichever is longer. Children and staff who appear to have an influenza-like illness at arrival or become ill during the day should be isolated promptly in a room separate from other students and sent home. Ill students should not attend alternative child care or congregate in other neighborhood and community settings outside of school. Child care providers should conduct daily health checks on all children. Aspirin or aspirin-containing products should not be administered to any confirmed or suspected ill case of novel H1N1 influenza virus infection aged 18 years old and younger due to the risk of Reye syndrome. Meanwhile, everyone should cover their mouth and nose when they cough and sneeze and clean hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub often.

For more information visit www.kchdvw.org/h1n1 or <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/camp.htm>.

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