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TO: Chief School Administrators
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FROM: Gerald J. Vernotica, Ed.D.
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DATE: August 11, 2009

SUBJECT: Updated Guidance re: H1N1 Flu

On Friday, August 7, 2009, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released updated school guidance that offers state and local public health and school officials a range of options for responding to 2009 H1N1 influenza in schools, depending on how severe the flu may be in their communities. (The press release can be found at: [Updated Federal Guidelines for 2009 H1N1 Influenza in Schools Offer Many Options](#). Overall, the guidance expresses that officials should balance the risk of flu in their communities with the disruption that school dismissals will cause in education and the wider community. The CDC anticipates more illness after the school year starts, because flu typically is transmitted more easily in the fall and winter.

Attached is a 17-page document from the CDC with key points about H1N1, including statistical update, recommendations about exclusion period for people with flu-like illness, school guidance, recommendations for high-risk groups, and evaluation of MMWR, rapid influenza diagnostic tests.

In addition, the links below provide communication guidelines for schools:

Preparing for the flu: A Communication Toolkit for Schools (Grades K-12) (PDF)
<http://www.flu.gov/plan/school/schoolflutoolkit.pdf>

Preparing for the flu: A Communication Toolkit for Schools (Grades K-12)-Subsection
<http://www.flu.gov/plan/school/toolkit.html>

You may wish to bookmark the CDC's main website for future reference: www.flu.gov