



# Genesee County Health Department

John D. McKellar, M.P.A., Acting Health Officer  
Gary K. Johnson, M.D., M.P.H., Medical Director

<http://www.gchd.us>

**Floyd J. McCree Courts & Human Services Building**  
630 S. Saginaw Street  
Flint, Michigan, 48502-1540  
Phone: 810-257-3612  
Fax: 810-257-3147

**Community Health**  
Phone: 810-257-3612  
Fax: 810-257-3147

**Environmental Health**  
Phone: 810-257-3603  
Fax: 810-257-3125

**Personal Health**  
Phone: 810-257-3132  
Fax: 810-237-6162

**Burton Branch**  
G-3373 S. Saginaw St.  
Burton, Michigan 48529  
Phone: 810-742-2255  
Fax: 810-742-2561

**McCree North Health Center**  
115 E. Pierson Rd.  
Flint, Michigan 48505  
Phone: 810-600-2400  
Fax: 810-785-9675

May 4, 2009

Dear Genesee County Schools, Students and Parents,

The Genesee County Health Department is working to keep you updated on the current swine flu situation. We have been preparing for the possibility of flu pandemic for some time now. Daily we are hearing about the H1N1 flu virus (swine flu) that has spread to many countries around the world. We are working closely with the Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to respond to the spread of the H1N1 flu virus. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with information to help you and your family prepare for an influenza pandemic.

If an influenza pandemic is declared and if pandemic influenza spreads to Genesee County, it may be necessary to close schools for an extended period of time. The purpose of closing schools is to decrease contact among children in order to decrease their risk of getting sick and to limit the spread of infection.

In the mean time, please be aware that the Genesee County Health Department and the schools are working to prevent spread of the H1N1 flu virus. As of right now, if a school or daycare has a case of H1N1 flu, the school or daycare may close for up to seven days. Siblings of children diagnosed with the H1N1 flu virus should remain home during the school closure, especially if they attend a different school or daycare. If a school or childcare facility closes, school or childcare-related gatherings should be cancelled for this time period. If a school or childcare facility closes, parents and students are also encouraged to not gather in large numbers outside of the school setting.

Personal hygiene is still the best method to prevent illness. The following are tips to keep in mind:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water.
- Keep your hands and fingers out of your eyes, nose, mouth, and ears.
- Cover your nose and mouth when coughing and sneezing by using tissue that you discard immediately, or by coughing or sneezing into your elbow.
- Avoid sharing cups and glasses.
- Stay home when sick to further prevent the spread of illness.

Please see the attached fact sheet about the H1N1 flu virus and what you can do to remain healthy. If you have questions you may contact your school or the Genesee County Health Department at (810) 257-3612. Additional information is available at the following websites: [www.gchd.us](http://www.gchd.us), [www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu) and [www.pandemicflu.gov](http://www.pandemicflu.gov).

Sincerely,

John D. McKellar, M.P.A.  
Acting Health Officer

Gary K. Johnson, M.D., M.P.H.  
Medical Director