



DepED ORDER  
No. 76, s. 2009

REVISED INFLUENZA A H1N1 RESPONSE LEVEL GUIDE FOR SCHOOLS

To: Undersecretaries  
Assistant Secretaries  
Bureau Directors  
Directors of Services, Centers and Heads of Units  
Regional Directors  
Schools Division/City Superintendents  
Heads, Public and Private Elementary and Secondary Schools

1. For the information and guidance of all concerned, enclosed is a copy of the Department of Health (DOH) Interim Guidelines re: **Revised Response Level Guide for Schools**.
2. Particular attention shall be given to the reasons for suspending classes and to Responses Levels 3 and 4, specifically on the declaration of suspension of classes.
3. In view of the increasing number of confirmed cases of Influenza A H1N1 and as a pro-active move for any eventuality of mutation of the virus, all public and private schools should sustain efforts to monitor the incidence of Influenza-like Illnesses (ILI); campaign for proper hand washing, general hygiene and proper cough/sneeze manners, make available hygiene and sanitation facilities. Enclosed are samples of information materials which may be printed in billboards and posters to be placed in strategic areas within the school campus as a constant reminder of preventive measures.
4. All regional directors, schools division superintendents and school heads shall continue to oversee and ensure the implementation of the Revised Influenza A (H1N1) Response Levels System in schools and to report the schools with confirmed cases and with cases under observation (CUOs) to the DepED A (H1N1) Action Center through hotline 635-9964 manned by Dr. Minda Meimban and Ms. Loida Ramos, Health and Nutrition Center or e-mail to [asectgsantos@yahoo.com](mailto:asectgsantos@yahoo.com)
5. Immediate and wide dissemination of and compliance with this Order is directed.

**JESLI A. LAPUS**  
Secretary

Encl.: As stated  
Reference: DepED Order: No. 53, s. 2009  
Allotment: 1—(D.O. 50-97)  
To be indicated in the Perpetual Index  
under the following subjects:

CLASSES

HEALTH EDUCATION

SCHOOLS



Republic of the Philippines  
 Department of Health  
**OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**  
 San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue  
 Sta. Cruz, Manila, Philippines 1003



**Interim Guidelines No. 18**  
**Revised Response Level Guide for Schools**

Revised interim guidelines on the different response levels for schools are hereby issued by the DOH with information that as of June 19, 2009 several confirmed cases of influenza A (H1N1) had been found in a few schools in Metro Manila and in a few provinces. At least 3 schools have contained the spread of infection by temporarily suspending classes. All local cases thus far identified manifested with mild symptoms and recovered uneventfully within an average of 5 days.

Suspension of classes and school closures had been used in pandemics and during seasonal influenza outbreaks by some countries. At specific stages of disease outbreaks, suspension of classes has helped reduce transmission among children and decrease disease spread to the community.

**A. Revised Response Level Guide for Schools.** The revised matrix on the different response levels below details the indications for the various appropriate responses to influenza A (H1N1) in schools:

**Table 1. Matrix on Influenza A (H1N1) Response Levels System in Schools**

	Response Level 1	Response Level 2	Response Level 3	Response Level 4
<b>Criteria</b>	1.1 Confirmed cases of Influenza A (H1N1) in other countries but no confirmed case in the Philippines	2.1 Confirmed cases of novel Influenza A (H1N1) in the country  2.2 No confirmed case in the school  2.3 No confirmed community level transmission	3.1 Confirmed cases of Influenza A (H1N1) in the country  3.2 Confirmed case in school  3.3 No confirmed community level transmission	4.1 Confirmed cases of Influenza A (H1N1) in the country  4.2 Confirmed community level transmission
<b>Response</b>	1.2 Keep updated about the status and extent of Influenza A (H1N1) globally  1.3 Campaign for proper hand washing, general hygiene and cough/sneeze manners  1.4 Make available hygiene and sanitation facilities  1.5 Line list and monitor health status of students, faculty and non-teaching personnel who have recently traveled to countries with confirmed cases of Influenza A	2.4 Level 1 Response PLUS:  2.5 Surveillance of influenza-like illness (ILI), i.e., fever, cough, sore throat  2.6 Line list students, faculty and non-teaching personnel with ILI  2.7 Monitor trend, cause, status of absentees (students, faculty and non-teaching personnel)  2.8 Students, faculty and non-teaching personnel with ILI shall not report to school but inform the school physician or	3.4 Implement Response Level 2 PLUS:  3.5 Temporarily suspend classes <sup>1</sup> in affected school  (for the extent of closure, refer to B.8)  3.6 Lift suspension after 10 days	4.3 Implement Response Level 2 PLUS:  4.4 As a rule, NO suspension of classes in schools located in areas with community level transmission. Exceptions are:  4.4.1 Unusually severe illness or clinical manifestations  4.4.2 Large number of simultaneously ill students and/or school staff

<sup>1</sup> See reasons for suspension of classes on item no. 5, page 3.

	Response Level 1	Response Level 2	Response Level 3	Response Level 4
	(H1N1) virus infection 1.6 Observe precautionary measures during school gathering	local health authorities for proper advice 2.9 Isolate in designated room and refer to school physician or healthcare worker persons identified to have ILI while in the school 2.10 Establish referral system with local health care facilities 2.11 Report to local health authorities (MHO/CHO) and/or the regional DOH Center for Health Development		4.5 Reverse isolation: students and school employees residing in areas without community level transmission should be advised NOT to report to school until the number of ILI in area or school has subsided OR these students and school employees will be required to wear face mask 4.6 Strengthen public health interventions
<b>Declaration of Suspension of Classes</b>	<b>1.7 No suspension of classes</b>	<b>2.12 No suspension of classes</b>	3.7 If a school has a laboratory-confirmed case of Influenza A (H1N1), the school principal declares suspension of classes <sup>2</sup> 3.8 If two or more schools in one city or municipality have confirmed cases of Influenza A (H1N1), the Division Superintendent declares the suspension of classes in the affected schools or depending on the location of schools affected, in the entire city or municipality 3.9 The Higher Education Institution heads declare suspension of classes in their respective schools	4.7 The school principal or head decides if school needs to be temporarily closed, based on: 4.7.1 Severity or manifestations of influenza A (H1N1) illness among student or local population 4.7.2 Number of simultaneously ill students and/or school staff 4.7.3 Recommendation of the DOH or regional Center for Health Development

**B. Clarification of Terms and Concepts:**

1. **ILI** stands for influenza-like illness. Influenza-like illness includes fever, cough, cold, sore throat and malaise. ILI can be caused by the influenza A (H1N1) virus, seasonal flu virus, common cold virus and bacterial pneumonia.
2. **Confirmed cases** are laboratory-tested positive cases of influenza A (H1N1) virus infection. Confirmation of cases is done by the DOH through its network of certified referral laboratories, both government and privately-owned.

<sup>2</sup> The principal or head of school may suspend classes selectively based on factors enumerated on item no. 8, page 3.

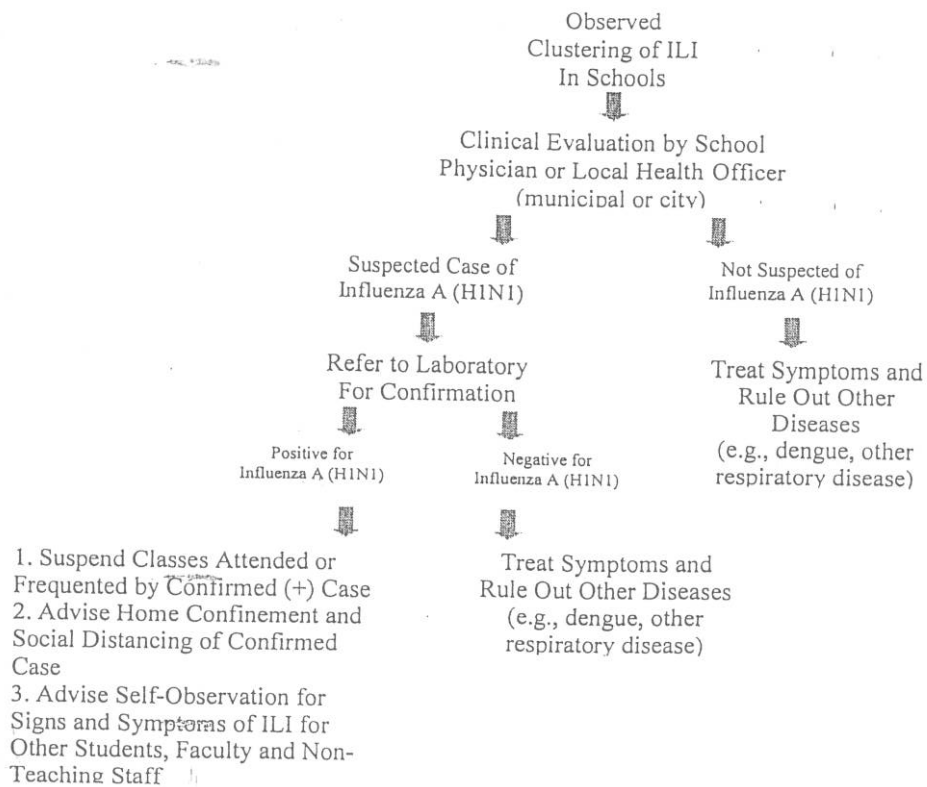
3. **Confirmation of community level transmission** is done by the Department of Health. School administrators shall closely coordinate with DOH regional Centers for Health Development in this regard.
4. The Secretary of the Department of Education, Chairperson of Commission on Higher Education and Director General of TESDA and their authorized representatives or officials may suspend classes according to information available to them or the recommendation provided by the DOH.
5. **The reasons for suspending classes are:**
  - To contribute to containment measures by limiting exposure to index case or cluster of cases in the school setting
  - To allow school officials to plan and institute or conduct for intensified campaign in school and community for awareness and behavior change toward
    - frequent hand washing
    - general personal hygiene, including sanitation of personal effects like cell phones and other closely held personal gadgets
  - For schools to institute sanitation and decontamination measures in the school:
    - General cleaning of the school
    - Use of disinfectants for chairs, desks, door knobs, toilets, lavatories and garbage bins
    - Ensure provision of water, soap and other supplies / materials for proper hygiene purposes
  - For schools to coordinate with local health officials and the DOH regional Centers for Health Development who should document and report the clinical manifestations and progress and investigate the likely source and extent of transmission of the infection.
6. **As a rule, suspension of classes is lifted 10 (calendar) days after the diagnosis of the known confirmed case.** By this time, school authorities should have carried out intensified hygiene and sanitation measures, contingency school program implementation and coordination with local health officials.
7. **There is no value in suspending classes for the same group of students or school staff, in case another confirmed case is detected in the group.** The likelihood that transmission has occurred prior to the occurrence of symptoms and laboratory testing is high. Thus, the emphasis of infection management should be shifted to individual patient care. As such, only confirmed cases or students, faculty members or non-teaching staff manifesting ILI shall be sent for home quarantine or referred to a health facility.
8. **The extent or coverage of suspension of classes, college, institute or department or of the closure of schools to contain influenza A (H1N1) infection for Response Level 3 depends on the following factors:**
  - **Physical configuration of school buildings** such that the area or areas frequented by the first confirmed case/s can be delimited to a specific building or floor level and only classes in these areas may be suspended
  - **Section or class assignments of students.** Students in block sections can be suspended altogether when one of them is a confirmed influenza A (H1N1) case

while sparing the rest of the school population from disruption of classes especially when there are no confirmed cases in other sections

- **School contingency plan of action** to minimize both the spread of infection and the disruption of classes. This should include special arrangements for students on home quarantine to be able to catch up with lessons and for students on reverse isolation (as in Response Level 4) to be accommodated in schools located in areas without community-level transmission.
  - **Evaluation and recommendation of the DOH central or regional Centers for Health Development and local health authorities**
9. **Affected schools should inform DepEd regarding their decision to suspend classes and/or close the school.**

**C. Flowchart on Management of Clustering of ILI Cases In Schools applies to the following situation:**

- When initial or first few ILI cases begin to be reported or seen in school
- There is no community transmission declared by the DOH central or regional offices



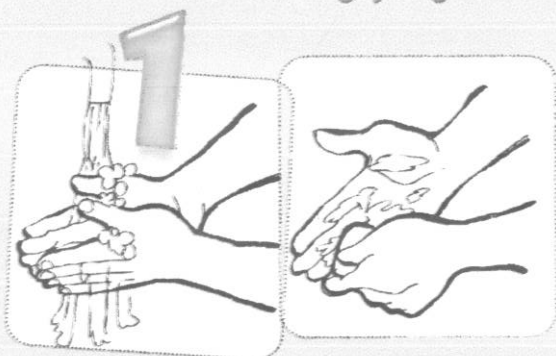
Issued by the DOH Emergency Management Task Force for the Pandemic Response to Influenza A (H1N1)



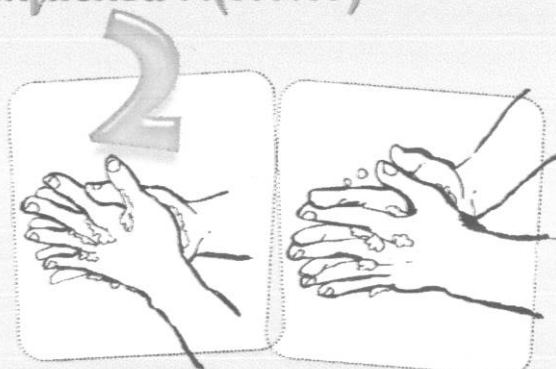
**DepED**  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

# Maghugas ng Kamay

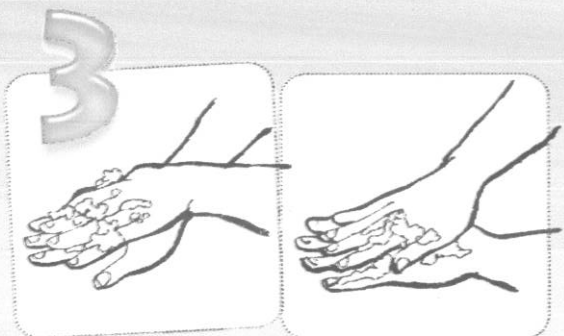
Maghugas ng kamay tuwing uubo at babahing upang maiwasan ang pagkalat ng Infuenza A(H1N1)



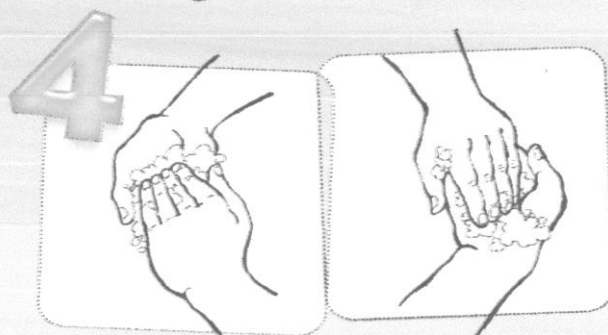
**Basain ng tubig ang kamay at sabunin.**



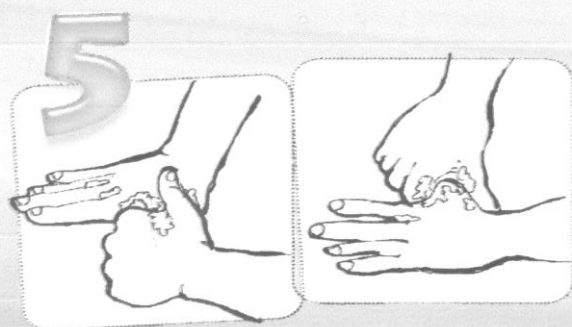
**Sabuning mabuti ang kamay, ilalim ng kuko at daliri.**



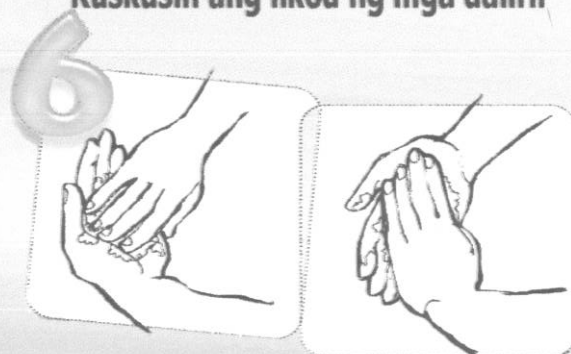
**Kuskusin ang pagitan ng mga daliri.**



**Kuskusin ang likod ng mga daliri.**



**Kuskusin ang pagitan ng hinlalaki.**



**Kuskusin ang mga palad gamit ang mga daliri at balawang mabuti ng malinis na tubig.**

Umawit ng Happy Birthday ng dalawang beses habang naghuhugas ng kamay upang masiguro na ito'y malinis.

Para sa karagdagang impormasyon sa Infuenza A(H1N1) tumawag sa 711-1001, 711 - 1002 o visit <http://www.doh.gov.ph/H1N1> o sa DepED Hotline 635-9964



## IWASAN ANG INFLUENZA A(H1N1)

### Ano ang Influenza A(H1N1)?

Ang Influenza A(H1N1) virus ay:

- isang bagong virus mula sa pinagsama-samang apat (4) na viruses mula sa ibon, tao at baboy
- nagdudulot ng sakit sa tao na maaaring ikamatay
- naihahawa sa ibang tao tulad ng ordinaryong trangkaso
- wala pang bakuna laban dito pero may rekomendadong gamot na epektibo laban dito

### Anu-ano ang mga sintomas nito?

- Tulad ng karaniwang trangkaso, ang mga sintomas ng Influenza A(H1N1) ay:
  - lagnat
  - sipon
  - ubo
  - sakit ng ulo
  - pananakit ng lalamunan
  - pananakit ng kasu-kasuan
  - walang ganang kumain
  - sobrang pagod
- May ilang pasyenteng nakaranas ng:
  - pagsusuka at
  - pagtatae

### Paano ito naihahawa sa ibang tao?

Ang isang tao ay maaaring mahawahan ng Influenza A(H1N1), sa pamamagitan ng:

- "exposure" sa pag-ubo o pagbahing ng taong apektado ng Influenza A(H1N1)
- pagkuskos sa ilong, bibig at mata matapos hawakan ang isang bagay na kontaminado ng nasabing virus

*Ang Influenza A(H1N1) ay hindi nakukuha sa pagkain ng karne ng baboy na inihanda ng maayos at niluto ng mabuti.*

### Paano ito maiiwasan?

Upang maiwasan ang Influenza A(H1N1), sundin ang sumusunod:

- Takpang mabuti ng panyo o tisyu ang bibig at ilong kung uubo o babahing
- Maghugas ng kamay gamit ang sabon at tubig matapos umubo at bumahing
- Maaari ding gumamit ng alcohol-based hand sanitizers
- Iwasang lumapit sa mga taong maysakit
- Mahalagang palakas ang resistansya ng katawan sa pamamagitan ng mga sumusunod:
  - Pagtulog ng 8 oras
  - Pagkain ng masustansyang pagkain at pag-inom ng maraming tubig
  - Pag-iwas sa stress
  - Regular na ehersisyo

DOH Hospitals designated as Referral Centers for Emerging and Re-emerging Infectious Diseases

#### National Referral Center

Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM)  
Alabang, Muntinlupa, Metro Manila  
Tel No. 809-7599

#### Sub-national Referral Centers

##### A. Luzon and Metro Manila

- San Lazaro Hospital  
Quiricada St., Sta. Cruz, Manila  
Tel. No. 732-3776 to 78
- Lung Center of the Philippines  
Quezon Avenue, Quezon City  
Tel. No. 924-6101/924-0707

##### B. Visayas

- Vicente Sotto Medical Center  
Cebu City  
Tel. No. (032) 253-9891/2540057

##### C. Mindanao

- Davao Medical Center  
Bajada, Davao City  
Tel. No. (082) 227-2731

#### Satellite Referral Hospitals

Regional Hospitals/Medical Centers of 16 regions

**Bantay Fever at Flu!**

Kung may nararamdamang sintomas ng flu, kumonsulta agad sa doctor.

Para sa karagdagang kaalaman tumawag sa (02) 711 - 1001 o 711 - 1002

o bumisita sa <http://www.doh.gov.ph/h1n1> o sa DepED Hotline 635 - 9964