



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Public Health Division  
Jean Turner, Director  
207A West South Street  
Bishop, CA 93514  
TELEPHONE (760) 873-7868  
1-866-398-7134  
FAX (760) 873-7800  
EMAIL [healthofficer@inyocounty.us](mailto:healthofficer@inyocounty.us)

## COUNTY OF INYO

### **2009 H1N1 Influenza Update by Health Officer, Richard Johnson, MD (formerly known as Swine Influenza) Thursday May 7, 2009, 2 PM**

California is entering a new phase of response to the novel influenza A H1N1 outbreak. When little was known about the illness from this new virus, it was prudent to consider multiple measures to protect individuals and impede its spread. Samples of these strategies included the dismissal of schools, thorough messaging to the public on the illness, and widespread testing for this influenza virus

Over the last week, additional data collected nationally by Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and within California by California Department of Public Health (CDPH) have provided a clearer picture of the disease caused by this new influenza virus. Most cases in the U.S. have not been severe and the illness appears to be consistent with seasonal flu. Accordingly, CDC and CDPH have updated their recommendations to approaching the outbreak.

1. School closure is no longer advised for a suspected or confirmed case of novel influenza A (H1N1) and, in general, is not advised unless there are large numbers of absences that interfere with the school's ability to function.
2. Testing recommendations have become more restrictive. Since Inyo County does not have any identified cases, we are still testing any individuals who are seriously ill.
3. The use of Tamiflu or Relenza (antivirals) will be restricted to those who are seriously ill or may be a risk for complications from influenza infection.

The changing approach should not imply that we are letting our guard down. It is unclear if the virus will return as a more serious illness this Fall. We should continue to practice the simple measures of thorough (15 – 20 seconds with soap & water) and frequent handwashing. If you get sick it is very important to stay at home and limit any contact with others. If your symptoms worsen with either a sustained fever and chills, inability to keep liquids down, difficulty breathing, chest pain, confusion, or dizziness, seek medical care. If possible, call first to let them know you are coming before entering the facility.