



# INYO COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH BRIEF

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**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

## **Pandemic (H1N1) 2009** **Health Alert Update for Providers, Schools, and Businesses – Sep, 09**

This Update provides recommendations for cleaning of surfaces to prevent Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 influenza transmission in non-healthcare settings.

### **Cleaning Surfaces to Prevent Pandemic Influenza H1N1 2009 Transmission in Non-Healthcare Settings**

We receive frequent requests for recommendations for the cleaning and disinfection of environmental surfaces outside of healthcare settings (e.g., desks and tables in schools and offices). Previous recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) have referred to the use of disinfectants. However, influenza is an extremely fragile virus, remaining infectious for only minutes upon exposure to air and is easy to kill. It can remain infectious for hours when protected from exposure to air by material such as respiratory secretions, which can be deposited on environmental surfaces by infected persons. Simple cleaning will remove most of virus along with other material, leaving the remaining virus to be exposed to air and rendered non-infectious within minutes. The following recommendations are based on current CDC guidelines for business and schools.

### **Clean surfaces and items that are more likely to have frequent hand contact by multiple people.**

Frequently clean all workplace/school surfaces that commonly touched by multiple people, such as elevator buttons, shared equipment, doorknobs, etc. Use the cleaning agents that are usually used in these areas and follow the directions on the label. No additional disinfection beyond routine cleaning is recommended. School staff should routinely clean areas that students and staff touch often (for example, shared keyboards) with the cleaners they typically use. They should also clean these areas immediately when visibly soiled. Use the cleaning agents that are usually used in these areas. Special cleaning with bleach and other non-detergent-based cleaners is not necessary. CDPH does not believe any additional disinfection of environmental surfaces beyond the recommended routine cleaning is required.

For more information on the novel 2009 H1N1 influenza, go to:

Public Health – Inyo County: <http://www.inyocounty.us/publichealth/index.php>

U.S. Government: [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov)

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC): <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>

California Department of Public Health:

<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/HealthInfo/discond/Pages/SwineInfluenza.aspx>