



Wyoming Department of Education

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MEMORANDUM No. 2009-158

TO: School District Superintendents

FROM: Jim McBride, Ed.D.

DATE: September 25, 2009

SUBJECT: H1N1 Influenza

INFORMATION TO SHARE

According to State Epidemiologist, Dr. Tracy Murphy, the Wyoming Department of Health Epidemiologists has received some calls from schools inquiring about the need to cancel sporting and other school events. Most recently, an athletic director called and said other schools are canceling events due to one (1) or so case of "swine flu".

The perspective of the WDH and the WDE is that schools do NOT need to be canceling events simply on the basis of the presence of "swine" flu in the school. The guideline in general has been to follow what they would have done in any flu season. There could be exceptions when we recommend canceling events due to an outbreak in a well-defined group, such as a particular team. For example, if half the football team has flu (whether it is swine flu or not) it would be best if they didn't travel to another school or host another team. This would apply in any flu season as well.

At this time, there is nothing to indicate actions such as canceling events need occur simply because there is a case or suspected case present.

For more information on H1N1 or seasonal flu, please visit <http://wdh.state.wy.us/phsd/epiid/swineflu.html>

JM:MMM:rs