

**Be informed.
Knowledge is your best defense.**

July 31, 2009

Dear Camp owner/director/operator:

Currently, **Pandemic (H1N1) 2009** infection in Canada is causing mainly mild illness, with symptoms similar to seasonal influenza however, we are seeing a wide spectrum of disease. The New Brunswick Department of Health is providing you with the information in this package to deal with this situation, and to prepare for the future.

If you have cases of Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 in your camp it is important for you, your staff and the camper's parents to be ready to implement additional steps. The information in this package reflects the most current guidelines issued by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). That agency's interim guidelines can be found at <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/alert-alertte/swine-porcine/guidance-orientation-06-30-eng.php> In keeping with those guidelines, the New Brunswick Department of Health is not recommending that camps in the province close, even if there are cases of Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 identified in that camp. The resulting disruption would outweigh any potential benefits.

We encourage camps to continue:

- promoting good routine hygiene precautions such as frequent hand-washing, covering coughs and sneezes;
- encouraging campers, and staff to stay home when ill and seek medical attention as necessary; and
- maintaining vigilance in cleaning of the camp environment as per infection control practices.

It is recognized that at times facilities may decide to temporarily close for reasons of excessive absenteeism (from any cause) among staff. If a camp facility affected by any respiratory illness is closed, dismissed campers and staff should be encouraged not to congregate in large numbers in other settings.

For more information on Pandemic (H1N1) 2009, please feel free to contact your local RHA Public Health office during normal office hours. For the most up-to-date information on Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 **at any time**, please visit www.gnb.ca/flu or call our 24-hour Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 phone line at 1-800-580-0038. The website is updated almost daily and the phone line provides information, symptom triage, and health advice.

Dr. Paul Van Buynder
Deputy Chief Medical Officer of Health



Health ADVICE - Issued by the Deputy Chief Medical Officer of Health

New Brunswick Camp Protocol Cases of Pandemic (H1N1) 2009

Following is the Department of Health's recommended protocol for dealing with issues involving children and staff members who are cases of Pandemic (H1N1) 2009. **This information reflects the situation in New Brunswick as of July 31, 2009, and may be subject to change. Please verify that you have the latest version when using.**

This protocol should be initiated when a camp notices a case of Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 in one of its facilities. **Prior to such confirmation, camps are advised to follow general Public Health advice about this kind of situation – frequent hand-washing, cover coughs and sneezes, stay home when ill – and individuals within the camp should follow their physician's advice.**

Any child or staff member who is sick with influenza-like symptoms (fever, cough, body aches, sore throat, and fatigue) should:

- be excluded from camp for seven days or until cleared for return by his or her physician (whichever time period is shortest). Note that a physician letter is NOT required for return if the person has been absent for the full seven day exclusion period;
- avoid crowds and public places. If children or staff members are sick with Pandemic (H1N1) 2009, they should stay home;
- minimize contact with other household members who are not sick by having one designated person care for their needs; and
- continue using good hygiene practices (frequent hand washing, covering coughs and sneezes); and
- seek medical attention if necessary.

If a camper becomes sick with influenza-like symptoms at camp, then he or she should be placed in a separate room from the well children; the parents / guardians should be contacted to take this child home. Staff members with these symptoms should go home as soon as possible.

If there has been a case of Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 in the camp, we recommend that a letter be sent home to all parents advising them to watch their child daily for symptoms; if they become sick, then they should stay at home (as above) and seek medical attention if necessary.

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July xx, 2009

Dear Parent (s):

A xxxxx case(s) of Pandemic (H1N1) has/have been identified in your child's camp. In line with current guidance from the Public Health Agency of Canada, the closure of camps is not being recommended at this time, even when cases of Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 are identified at the camp.

Please monitor your child daily for influenza-like illness (fever, cough and one or more of the following: sore throat, body aches and fatigue). If your child develops these symptoms, please follow the current public health advice on this issue, which includes staying home when sick, covering coughs and sneezes, and frequent hand-washing. Your child should stay home for seven days from the onset of the first symptoms, or until cleared for return by your doctor. Taking antiviral medication to prevent this disease in otherwise healthy people is not recommended at this time.

It is possible that further spread of this infection within the camp has already occurred, so it is important to review routine infection control measures with your child, such as frequent hand washing, covering his/her coughs and sneezes, avoiding sharing personal items, and staying home when sick.

For more information on Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 flu virus, please feel free to contact your local RHA Public Health office during normal office hours. For the most up-to-date information on Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 at any time, please visit www.gnb.ca/flu or call our 24-hour Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 phone line at 1-800-580-0038. The website is updated almost daily and the phone line provides information, symptom triage, and health advice.

Your support in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Dr. Paul Van Buynder
Deputy Chief Medical Officer of Health

