

# EMD BULLETIN



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## Emergency Management Department

**James Featherstone, General Manager**

200 North Spring Street, Room 1533, Los Angeles, CA 90012 ♦ Telephone: 213-978-2222

TTY: 213-473-6296 ♦ Web <http://www.lacity.org/emd/>

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### H1N1 2009 (SWINE INFLUENZA) UPDATE – EMDP012

The World Health Organization (WHO) has **raised the pandemic** warning level of the H1N1 Viruses from **Phase 5 to Phase 6**. WHO stated it raised the pandemic level because "scientific criteria for an influenza pandemic have been met."

According to WHO, Phase 6 - the pandemic phase - is characterized by "community level outbreaks" in at least one other country in a different WHO region, in addition to the criteria defined in Phase 5 (characterized by the human-to-human spread of the virus into at least two countries in one WHO region). Because the virus has technically met the criteria of a global pandemic as defined in Phase 6, the alert level has been raised.

As of Wednesday, June 9, 2009 WHO states that 74 countries had reported 27,737 cases of the , including 141 deaths. In perspective, the Hong Kong Flu pandemic of 1968 and 1969 killed an estimated one million people worldwide and 33,800 in the United States.

"At this early stage, the pandemic can be characterized globally as being moderate in severity," WHO commented in a statement urging nations not to close borders or restrict travel and trade. At this time, the **Centers for Disease Control (CDC) have not issued any travel or closure advisories in response to the change of the H1N1 alert status.**

Public health officials emphasize that this **strain of virus in the United States is mild**. Every year there are approximately 36,000 deaths and over 200,000 hospitalizations related to the seasonal flu in the United States.

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#### About the Emergency Management Department (EMD)

The Emergency Management Department was established by ordinance in 2000 by the City Council and Mayor. EMD is dedicated to leading the City in comprehensive emergency management including: planning, mitigation, preparation, response to and recovery from natural, manmade and accidental incidents of high consequence.

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H1N1 Alert EMDP012

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

The symptoms of H1N1 continue to be the same as the seasonal flu such as fever, lethargy, sore throat, cough, muscle aches, lack of appetite, runny nose, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Basic hygiene practices remain the best defense in preventing the spread of H1N1 or any other flu-like virus. Those practices include:

- Frequent hand washing, especially after using the restroom and before eating
- Covering your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze
- Avoiding touching your hands to your eyes, nose and mouth
- Staying home when sick you or your children are sick

The City of Los Angeles has set up a toll-free, 24-hour recorded line for addition information and updates. The number is **(800) 439-2909**. Also follow EMD updates on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/readyla>.

For more ways you can prevent the spread of H1N1 and seasonal influenza, visit the CDD's website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1>.

Additional information is also available from the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LACDPH) at:  
[http://www.lapublichealth.org/docs/CDC\\_DPH\\_FAQ%20Swine%20Flu\\_4\\_24\\_09.pdf](http://www.lapublichealth.org/docs/CDC_DPH_FAQ%20Swine%20Flu_4_24_09.pdf)

The Emergency Management Department will publish updates as they become available.

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