

Operational Services

Administrative Procedure - School Action Steps for Pandemic Influenza

Building a strong relationship with the local health department and emergency medical agencies is critical for developing a meaningful school action plan to address pandemic influenza. The key planning activities in this checklist should build upon the District’s existing contingency plans.

The following is a list of important step-by-step actions school officials should take before a pandemic influenza outbreak. This list needs to be repeated when an outbreak has several cycles or waves.

Prior to Outbreak/Preparedness and Planning Phase

Actor	Action
Principal or designee	Identify Pandemic Planning Team to operate as a Superintendent Committee that includes administrators and staff members.
Principal and administrative team	Identify, modify, and monitor relevant policies that a pandemic may possibly affect, including but not limited to: <i>1:20, District Organization, Operations, and Cooperative Agreements</i> <i>2:20, Powers and Duties of the School Board; Indemnification</i> <i>2:200, Types of School Board Meetings</i> <i>3:70, Succession Plan</i> <i>4:130, Free and Reduced-Price Food Services</i> <i>4:180, Pandemic Preparedness</i> <i>5:35, Compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act</i> <i>5:40, Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease</i> <i>5:180, Temporary Illness or Incapacity</i> <i>5:185, Family and Medical Leave</i> <i>5:200, Terms and Conditions of Employment and Dismissal</i> <i>5:270, Employment At-will, Compensation, and Assignment</i> <i>5:300, Schedule and Employment Year</i> <i>5:330, Sick Days, Vacation, Holidays and Leaves</i> <i>6:20, School Year Calendar and Day</i> <i>6:120, Education of Children with Disabilities</i> <i>6:150, Home and Hospital Instruction</i> <i>7:70, Truancy</i> <i>7:280, Communicable and Chronic Infectious Disease</i> <i>8:100, Relations with Other Organizations and Agencies</i>
Principal or designee and administrative team	Begin use of the School District (K-12) Pandemic Influenza Planning Checklist at: www.flu.gov/planning-preparedness/school/schoolchecklist.html . Ensure a succession plan exists in case Board members, administrators, and/or others are unable to fulfill duties during the pandemic. Succession plans for Board members unable to fulfill duties during the pandemic may create a vacancy on the Board. Discuss the issues of succession plans for elected officials with the Board Attorney. Work with local health and emergency preparedness officials. They may want to use the schools to disseminate information to families. Train employees about FLSA, overtime, and recordkeeping requirements necessary to work during a pandemic while the School District is closed.

Actor	Action
	<p>Open communications with employee unions regarding “wages, hours and terms and conditions of employment” during a pandemic.</p> <p>Address policies for employee absenteeism, identifying critical job functions, plans for alternate coverage, and return-to-work policies as well as flu symptom recognition.</p> <p>Train nurses and staff in flu symptom recognition. See 4:180-AP2, <i>Pandemic Influenza Surveillance and Reporting</i>. Remember that a person who is infected does not show symptoms right away, but children becoming ill may show different behavior than usual, such as eating less or being irritable. Knowing the differences between seasonal and pandemic flu is also critical to pandemic preparedness. A fact sheet is available at: www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/basics/about.html.</p> <p>Train staff to protect themselves from occupational exposure to influenza through workplace <i>social distancing</i> based upon the Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s (OSHA), Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for an Influenza Pandemic, which may be found at: www.osha.gov/Publications/influenza_pandemic.html.</p> <p>Ensure that Standard Surveillance disease recognition procedures are in place and implemented. See 4:180-AP2, <i>Pandemic Influenza Surveillance and Reporting</i>.</p> <p>Encourage the use of simple non-medical ways to reduce the spread of flu by <i>cough and sneeze etiquette</i> and cleansing of hands and work areas.</p> <p>Decide to what extent the District will encourage or require students and staff to stay home when they are mildly ill. Some parents/guardians may need to be more cautious in keeping their students out of school.</p> <p>Identify students who have a greater risk of infection and are most vulnerable to serious illness. Review their health needs and encourage those families to talk with their health care providers.</p> <p>Assess nutritional assistance needs for students who receive free and reduced-price food programs. For more information about providing continuity of meal distribution for students eligible for reimbursable meals, see Q & A #5 at: www.isbe.net/Documents/usda_qa072309.pdf</p> <p>Through consultation with the Regional Office of Education and local authorities, develop strategies for remote learning through collaborative agreements (television or other local cable stations, teleconferencing, electronic instructional resources, etc.).</p> <p>Educate staff, students, and parents/guardians about the differences between the various types of flu, best hygienic practices to prevent any sort of flu, and what could occur in a pandemic. See Sample Parent Letter #1, Preparation and Planning at: www.idph.state.il.us/pandemic_flu/school_guide/sppg_ltr_preparation.pdf.</p> <p>Also see, Preparing for the Flu at: www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/schools/toolkit/pdf/schoolflutoolkit.pdf and www.dph.illinois.gov/topics-services/diseases-and-conditions/influenza#publications-publications-influenza.</p> <p>Review Sections IV and V of School Guidance During an Influenza</p>

Actor	Action
	Pandemic at: www.idph.state.il.us/pandemic_flu/schoolguide.htm .

Outbreak of Flu Disease

Actor	Action
Principal or designee	Consider issuing Sample Parent Letter # 2, First Bird Case at: www.idph.state.il.us/pandemic_flu/school_guide/sppg_ltr_bird.pdf . Begin Heightened Surveillance responses. See 4:180-AP2, <i>Pandemic Influenza Surveillance and Reporting</i> . Issue Sample Parent/Guardian Letter #3, Illinois/Regional Cases , informing parents/guardians that some students are sick but schools remain open, include tip sheets and information resource list. A sample is at: www.idph.state.il.us/pandemic_flu/school_guide/sppg_il_cases.pdf .
Administrative team	Work with local health department regarding a press release announcing that schools will remain open and advising parents/guardians of their need to prepare. A sample, titled Schools Open , is at: www.idph.state.il.us/pandemic_flu/school_guide/sppg_media_open.pdf .
Building Principal	Post flu prevention signs on campuses. See Section V of School Guidance During an Influenza Pandemic at: www.idph.state.il.us/pandemic_flu/schoolguide.htm .

Expansion of the Outbreak

Actor	Action
Local Health Department	Issue epidemic statement to general public.
Principal or designee	Begin Intensive Surveillance responses. See 4:180-AP2, <i>Pandemic Influenza Surveillance and Reporting</i> .

Continued Expansion of the Outbreak

Actor	Action
Local Health Department	Evaluate the need for school closure with local school officials.
Principal or designee	In consultation with local health department, emergency management agencies, and Regional Office of Education, close school(s). Issue press release. A sample, titled Schools Closed , is at: www.idph.state.il.us/pandemic_flu/school_guide/sppg_media_closed.pdf . Issue Sample Parent Letter #4, School Closure . A sample is at: www.idph.state.il.us/pandemic_flu/school_guide/sppg_closures.pdf .
Principal	Cancel any non-academic events.

Following the Outbreak

Actor	Action
Local Health Department	Evaluate the advisability of opening school(s) with school officials.

Principal or designee	Issue press release that schools are open. Issue Sample Parent Letter #5, Schools Reopen . A sample is at: www.idph.state.il.us/pandemic_flu/school_guide/sppg_reopening.pdf .
Principal or Administrative team	Continue communicating with local health department.
Principal or designee	Return to Heightened Surveillance response. See 4:180-AP2, <i>Pandemic Influenza Surveillance and Reporting</i> . Begin checklist again if an outbreak recurs.

Local Health Department:

Regional Office of Education:

_____ Name

_____ Name

_____ Address

_____ Address

_____ Telephone

_____ Telephone

Emergency Management Agencies:

_____ Name

_____ Name

_____ Address

_____ Address

_____ Telephone

_____ Telephone

Important Resources

The Illinois State Board of Education and Department of Public Health released a publication titled **School Guidance During an Influenza Pandemic**, December 2006 at:

www.idph.state.il.us/pandemic_flu/schoolguide.htm.

The resource is meant to guide and supplement, not replace school districts' existing plans.

Further information on pandemic influenza can be found by calling 1-800-CDC-INFO or at the following websites:

www.pandemicflu.gov

www.cdc.gov/flu

www.redcross.org www.cchealth.org