

Siskiyou County Office of Education
Health Services Department

Pandemic Flu Action Kit

The Center for Disease Control (CDC), California Department of Health Services (DHS), California Department of Education (CDE), and our local Siskiyou County Public Health Department (SCPHD) are all urging school districts to develop Pandemic Flu Crisis Response Plans. Attached is a template that the schools in our community can use to help them create a plan that will fit their school. The format and much of the material in this template was developed by the Contra Costa Health Services Department. SCOE has adapted the material for our county and we have placed the toolkit on a CD in windows format so that the schools can further individualize the plan.

For efficiency, as well as accuracy and consistency of information, SCOE will be the initial agency the SCPHD will contact (see school closure flow charts). The Health Services Director will attend the tabletop exercises and keep schools informed as to new information and materials or if an exercise requires school district participation. School representatives are welcome to be part of the countrywide process.

If you look at the “School Action Steps”, schools will need to have a committee to develop, keep current, and implement the plan. The existing Safety Committee or Health Committee can be used with the addition of local members of the community such as health care providers and emergency preparedness officials. A school employee should be designated as the coordinator of the committee and Action Plan.

Presently, prevention of seasonal flu will be a priority. Education and promotion of good hygiene such as hand washing for students, families, and staff should be emphasized (posters and fact sheets are enclosed). The CDC and SCPHD strongly recommend that everyone receive the flu vaccine. A schedule of the SCPHD clinics will be given to the schools as soon as SCOE receives it. The above measures will also benefit schools by improving ADA and staff wellness so the educational process will not be disrupted.

Another part of the plan is for schools to develop alternative learning strategies for students should a pandemic flu outbreak occur, causing schools to be closed. Here is your area of expertise. What can be done to continue student learning? Should school districts work on this alone, team with area schools, and/or utilize the expertise of the SCOE Curriculum Department? Now is the time to consider this situation.