

SAMPLE NEWS RELEASE B:

**Health Services will use this type of press release to announce school closures
A similar press release will be issued when school reopens**

For immediate release (DATE)

Contact: (PIO name and number)

Health officials order closure of schools in (School District #)

(Local) County health officials have ordered the closure of schools as a result of the pandemic flu outbreak in the county.

Schools may be closed for a period of time - days or even weeks. Because the virus is easily spread from person-to-person, (Local County health department) has also ordered colleges, day care centers and preschools to close. Because it is unsafe for large groups of people to gather, health officials warn people to stay away from shopping malls, community centers and other places where germs can be spread.

"We know this is an anxious time for our community and our hearts go out to those who are ill. We are working closely with the schools to deal with the situation and will keep parents updated with any important information," said (Local Health Official)

According to LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIAL, the purpose of closing schools is to limit contact among children to decrease their risk of getting sick and to limit the spread of infection.

Because so many people are sick with the flu, health officials acknowledge that it may be hard to get a doctor's appointment, go to a clinic or even be seen in a hospital emergency room. They provided some tips for residents to care for the sick at home:

- Have them drink plenty of liquids (juice, water)
- Keep the sick person as comfortable as possible. Rest is important.
- For adults with fever, sore throat and muscle aches, use ibuprofen (Motrin) or acetaminophen (Tylenol). Do not use aspirin in children or teenagers; it can cause Reye's syndrome, a life-threatening illness.
- Keep tissues and a trash bag within reach of the sick person.
- Be sure everyone in your home washes his or her hands frequently.
- Keep the people who are sick with the flu away from the people who are not sick.

For school updates, parents can call the school district's hotline at (INSERT HOTLINE NUMBER).

For more information on pandemic flu, visit (state or local health department) Web site at (insert URL) or the Department of Health and Human Services Web site at www.pandemicflu.gov.