



STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR
PATTY JUDGE, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
CHARLES J. KROGMEIER, DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM

To: Iowa Foster Care Providers
From: Mary Nelson, Division Administrator for Child and Family Services
Dr. Patricia Quinlisk, Medical Director, Iowa Department of Public Health
Re: Precautions and Planning for Influenza including novel influenza A (H1N1)

The Iowa Department of Human Service and the Iowa Department of Public Health is sending you this letter to provide important information regarding influenza including the novel influenza A (H1N1).

While none of the information, materials, or recommendations is required to be used, they are highly recommended to decrease the spread of influenza.

The Iowa Departments of Human Services and Public Health have partnered to develop written materials for foster care providers regarding the novel influenza A (H1N1). We used preliminary guidance from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The CDC suggests you begin to observe children, others in the home and staff NOW for symptoms of influenza.

Influenza is a virus that spreads through the air when sick people cough or sneeze. The symptoms of influenza include fever (orally 100 or above degrees Fahrenheit), cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and feeling very tired. Some people may also vomit or have diarrhea.

Influenza is currently causing sickness in Iowa. We expect illnesses will continue and may increase during the upcoming fall and winter months. We need your help to decrease the spread of influenza among the children and families that you serve.

General Information has been posted on the Iowa Department of Public Health website at www.idph.state.ia.us. To view information developed for foster homes and group care facilities go to www.dhs.iowa.gov. We would recommend frequenting these sites for any new general or specific updated information

The information includes materials you may use to decrease the spread of influenza:

- Iowa Department of Public Health novel influenza A (H1N1) Recommendations for Foster Care, gives you instructions on signs of influenza and what you should do to prevent the spread of illness at your home or facility.
- Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection Fact Sheet, gives you guidance on how to clean, sanitize or disinfect items within your home or facility
- Daily Health Check guidance and checklist.
- Guidance for how to properly take a child's temperature.
- A notice you may use if you have a case of novel influenza A (H1N1) in your home or facility.

When you have questions, call your local public health office.