

# Gov. Perry Requests Additional Antiviral Medicines From CDC as Precautionary Measure to Address Swine Flu in Texas

All Schools in Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City ISD Closed

April 26, 2009

AUSTIN – As a precautionary measure, Gov. Rick Perry today increased his request of antiviral medication to 25 percent (850,000 courses) of the Texas allotment from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Strategic National Stockpile to be prepositioned in the state. This request will augment the more than 840,000 courses of antiviral medication on hand in Texas following a purchase authorized by the 80th Legislature and Gov. Perry in 2007.

"While the confirmed cases of swine flu in the U.S. have been mild, it is prudent that we take the necessary precautions in Texas to protect our citizens, which is why today I have requested 850,000 courses of antiviral medication from the CDC to be prepositioned in the state," said Gov. Rick Perry. "We will continue to work with our local, state and federal health officials to ensure public safety is protected."

CDC's Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) has large quantities of medicine and medical supplies to protect the American public if there is a public health emergency (terrorist attack, flu outbreak, earthquake). For more information on the SNS, visit <http://www.bt.cdc.gov/stockpile>.

All 14 schools and two district facilities in the Schertz-Cibolo-Universal City Independent School District will be closed effective immediately after several more flu-like illnesses have been discovered in the ongoing Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) swine flu investigation. All extracurricular activities are also cancelled. For more information visit: <http://www.scuc.txed.net>.

The move follows the closing of the district's Byron Steele High School, announced on Saturday. Swine flu has been lab-confirmed in two students from that school who have recovered. Lab confirmation is pending on a third case who is recovering.

"We don't have lab confirmation for any of the additional flu-like illnesses yet, but we've found enough illnesses associated with some of the other schools that we believe it's prudent to close all of them before classes resume on Monday," said Sandra Guerra, M.D., a DSHS regional director and the public health authority for Guadalupe County. She urged students not to be around each other while the schools are closed, noting that would "defeat the purpose of the closings."

The governor and state health officials urge the schools' staff, faculty, students and their household members to avoid contact with others, especially if they have symptoms of a respiratory illness.

Symptoms of swine flu in people are similar to those of regular or seasonal flu and include fever, fatigue, lack of appetite and coughing. Some with swine flu also have reported runny nose, sore throat, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

Health officials say everyone should follow standard precautions to reduce the spread of any respiratory illness.

- Stay home when you are sick to avoid spreading illness to others.

- Cough or sneeze into the crook of your elbow or a tissue and properly dispose of used tissues.
- Wash hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and warm water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Individuals with these flu-like symptoms should call the state's swine flu call center at 888-777-5320. For health care providers with questions about assessing, evaluating and treating swine flu, call 877-623-6274. These lines are operational from 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

For additional information on the swine flu, please visit:

[www.dshs.state.tx.us/swineflu](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/swineflu)

[www.cdc.gov/swineflu/](http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/)