

**ALSO SEE ATTACHED NOTICE REGARDING YMCA POLICIES
RELATED TO POSSIBLE H1N1 FLU PANDEMIC**

As you probably know, the H1N1 (Swine) flu virus is affecting the entire country including our area. We are working very closely with local and state officials to try to prevent the spread of H1N1 among our children, members and staff. We will follow the recommendations of the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Madison County Health Department. Nonetheless, there are steps every parent can take to lower their children's chances of getting sick:

- Remind children to wash their hands frequently with soap and water. Consider giving them a small bottle of hand sanitizer for their backpack.
- Teach your children to cough into their inner elbow or into a tissue, instead of their hands. This will help prevent the spread of germs, including the flu virus.
- Get children vaccinated.
- Keep your children at home when sick. Conduct daily health checks to make sure that your child does not have signs of the flu (fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills or fatigue) before you send them to the YMCA. Children with flu-like illness should remain at home and away from others for seven days after their symptoms start and at least 24 hours after they are free of fever.

There are certain people who are at an increased risk for complications from the H1N1 virus. If they have been in contact with someone with the flu, the following individuals, or their guardians, should talk with a doctor. They include:

- Women who are pregnant
- Blood disorders (including sickle cell disease)
- Chronic lung disease (including asthma or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease)
- Cancer – Diabetes – Heart disease – Kidney disorders – Liver disorders
- Neurological disorders (including nervous system, brain or spinal cord)
- Neuromuscular disorders (including muscular dystrophy and multiple sclerosis)
- People with weakened immune systems (including people with AIDS or those who are receiving chemotherapy)
- People under the age of 25

More information on the H1N1 flu virus can be found on the links to the Center for Disease Control (www.cdc.gov), the Illinois Department of Public Health (www.idhph.state.il.us) and the Madison County Health Department (www.madisoncountyhealthdepartment.org) websites.

Within our YMCA, we are carefully monitoring our facilities and program participants. We appreciate your continued cooperation and support as we work together to reduce the spread of the H1N1 flu virus in our communities.

Sincerely,

Gary Niebur
President/CEO

EDWARDSVILLE YMCA POLICIES REGARDING POSSIBLE H1N1 PANDEMIC

The Edwardsville YMCA places the health of our members, patrons, staff, and communities first and foremost. We are taking proactive measures to ensure that the YMCA is prepared to address a possible H1N1 pandemic situation.

In addition to the information contained in the cover letter we encourage everyone to be familiar with the symptoms associated with H1N1 and take immediate action as outlined on the websites that are referred herein.

The Edwardsville YMCA has adopted the policies listed below that will become effective immediately IF the Edwardsville School District makes the determination to close schools due to a pandemic outbreak. These policies have been adopted as a proactive measure to inform our members and patrons of our action response plan in the unfortunate case of school closures.

- If Edwardsville School District # 7 cancels/closes schools due to an H1N1 pandemic the Edwardsville YMCA will not offer the Kid's Network Before and After School program during the time that the public school system is not in session.
- If the Edwardsville School District # 7 cancels/closes schools due to an H1N1 pandemic the Edwardsville YMCA will not offer the traditional Activity Day Camp program that is normally offered when school is not in session due to poor weather conditions and or the normal school schedule for days off Monday through Friday.
- If the Edwardsville School District # 7 cancels/closes schools due to an H1N1 pandemic the YMCA will not offer preschool or childcare programs, including babysitting.
- Decisions regarding any changes in the overall operation of the YMCA, including program offerings and facility use will be announced and posted at the time such decision is made.
- If a program participant or facility user exhibits signs of flu symptoms the individual will be moved to a location in the facility and the parent/guardian will be notified.
- Additional precautionary measures have and will continue to be taken regarding maintenance and custodial actions.
- Staff has been instructed not to come to work, or be in the facility, if they demonstrate flu type symptoms as addressed earlier in this document.

In addition, please rest assured that we are following all Center for Disease Control recommendations and we are in contact on a regular basis with local authorities including the School District and Anderson Hospital.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.