

NEW MEXICO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DEPT.

Secretary Alfredo Vigil, MD

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Dept.

NEW MEXICO PUBLIC EDUCATION

Secretary Veronica C. García

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Departments of Health and Public Education Close All Public Schools in Socorro and Lordsburg School Districts, Carlsbad High School and Deming Intermediate School

Closings Include the Cancellation of All School-Related Activities

(Las Cruces) – The New Mexico Department of Health and the New Mexico Public Education Department announced today that Carlsbad High School, Deming Intermediate School, all public schools in the Socorro Consolidated School District including Cottonwood Valley Charter School in Socorro and all public schools in the Lordsburg Municipal School District will close May 4 through May 10 due to probable cases of H1N1 influenza. These are probable cases that the Department of Health is already investigating.

The school closings will include the cancellation of all athletic and academic competitions, practices and extra-curricular activities. Child care programs and after school programs that are located on public or charter school properties will also be closed for the next week. Parents should keep their children at home and not allow them to congregate with other students to keep the possible spread of illness to a minimum. The closures will affect 14 schools.

“We are taking quick action to prevent the spread of H1N1 flu in New Mexico by closing the schools in these communities,” said Health Secretary Alfredo Vigil, MD. “Parents around the state need to continue to be diligent and keep their children home from school if they develop influenza-like symptoms.”

The decision to close the schools was based on probable cases of H1N1 influenza cases and guidelines from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Schools will conduct a thorough cleaning of high contact surfaces including doorknobs, counters and fixtures with disinfectants during the closures.

“Although we have not had any more confirmed cases of the H1N1 virus, the Department of Health, Public Education Department and superintendents closely collaborated on this decision to close the schools,” said Education Secretary Veronica C. García. “The decision was made in the best interests of children in the schools and to minimize the continued spread of any illness. I am counting on principals, coaches, athletic directors, and activity sponsors to strictly adhere to these guidelines about practices, athletic and academic activities, and any extra curricular activities.”

Secretary García urged parents to keep students who are ill to stay home from school.

“In general, any student, even students who are under truancy plans with schools or courts, are not to go to school if they are sick,” Secretary García said.

The Department of Health announced Saturday New Mexico’s first confirmed case in an 18-year-old male from Valencia County. The CDC also reported that the 1-year-old male from Santa Fe County did not have H1N1 flu. The Department of Health is investigating 14 probable cases and one confirmed case in New Mexico. All cases range in age from 5 to 39 and are located in six counties.

The following are the probable cases in New Mexico:

County	Age/Gender	Status
Bernalillo	27-year-old male	Recovering
Eddy County	17-year-old female 22-year-old female 24-year-old female 7-year-old male 39-year-old male	Recovering Recovering Unknown Unknown Unknown
Hidalgo County	17-year-old male 15-year-old female 9-year-old male 5-year-old female	Recovering Unknown Unknown Unknown
Luna County	11-year-old female	Unknown
Socorro County	14-year-old female 15-year-old male	Recovering Recovered
Valencia County	15-year-old female	Recovered

The Department is investigating all cases to determine how patients may have gotten sick and find others who may have been exposed to H1N1. The investigation into all cases is ongoing.

For current information please consult the CDC website at: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu> and the Department of Health’s website at: http://www.nmhealth.org/FLU/seasonal/swine_flu.html. For general questions about H1N1 flu, call the state’s H1N1 Influenza Hotline at 1-866-850-5893. People who have symptoms may call the Nurse Advice New Mexico at 1-877-725-2552. The Department also set up a specific hotline for callers who speak Spanish: 1-800-784-0394.

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