

**SAMPLE NEWS RELEASE B:
(Use this news release to announce influenza illness but schools to remain open.)**

For Release: (DATE)

Contact: (Name and Phone Number)

Local Schools are Open but Parents Should Prepare

Local schools remain open despite the influenza outbreak in the county but parents are being asked to prepare for possible student dismissals if the virus continues to spread. School and _____ County health officials are working together to monitor the situation and parents will be updated with any important information.

“At this time, we believe students can safely attend classes and schools will remain open,” said _____ Schools Superintendent _____. “If the H1N1 flu (swine flu) continues to spread and more students become ill, students may be dismissed for a period of time. Parents should be planning now for childcare in their home.”

_____ County health officials say parents can help protect their children and prevent the spread of pandemic flu as they would colds and other flu by taking the following precautions:

- Teach your children to wash hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Be sure to set a good example by doing this yourself.
- Teach your children to cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or by coughing into the inside of the elbow. Be sure to set a good example by doing this yourself.
- People who are sick should stay home from work or school and avoid other people until they are better and have had no fever for at least 24 hours after discontinuing the use of fever-reducing medications.

Health officials point out that these recommendations may change during the course of a pandemic flu outbreak. For school updates, parents can call the school district’s hotline at (INSERT NUMBER). For more information on influenza, visit the Oklahoma State Department of Health’s Web site at <http://h1n1.health.ok.gov>. or www.flu.gov.

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