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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **SCHOOL DISMISSAL DUE TO SWINE FLU**

**San Bernardino.** Cole Elementary School in San Bernardino County was dismissed today by the San Bernardino County Department of Public Health due to a probable case of swine flu. The final laboratory results have not been confirmed by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Confirmation of the test will possibly be available by Friday. The child is recovering at home and none of the other family members have become ill. More detailed information cannot be released because of privacy regulations but the school is contacting parents of their students.

There has been a confirmed case of Swine Influenza A (H1N1) on the Twentynine Palms Marine Corps Base in the County. Testing was done by the military so the Department of Public Health has no further information about the case.

“No other confirmed cases of this virus have been identified in San Bernardino County at this time,” stated Health Officer Maxwell Ohikhuare, M.D., with the Department of Public Health. He stated that “the illness has been a mild form and universal precautions are the best way to avoid infection.”

Symptoms of swine flu are similar to common seasonal flu, including fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Some people have reported vomiting or diarrhea associated with swine flu. The public should contact their health care provider for medical attention, as they would for any medical need. The Department of Public Health clinics do not provide medical care for swine flu. People with influenza virus infection should be considered potentially contagious as long as they are symptomatic and possibly for up to 7 days following illness onset. Children, especially younger children, might potentially be contagious for longer periods of time.

It is important for parents with children in school to be prepared, and to consider alternate plans for child care if their school is closed. There are no further school dismissals under discussion, however, the situation may change if more cases of swine flu are identified.

The San Bernardino County Department of Public Health will continue to closely monitor the situation and will provide more information to the public, as available. For more details on Swine Influenza A (H1N1) virus infection, call the Department of Public Health

at 1-800-782-4264. You can also access the U. S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at [www.cdc.gov/flu/swine](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swine) or call 1-800-CDC-INFO. Further information is available from the California Department of Public Health website at [www.cdph.ca.gov](http://www.cdph.ca.gov).

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