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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### SCHOOLS/CLUB DISMISSAL DUE TO H1N1 INFLUENZA

**San Bernardino.** San Bernardino County Department of Public Health recommended dismissal of Shandin Hills Middle School, Lytle Creek Elementary, and Barton Elementary in the San Bernardino City Unified School District, and Ruth Harris Middle School in the Colton Joint Unified School District due to probable cases of H1N1 Influenza. This is in addition to Clement Middle School in Redlands, Boys & Girls Clubs of Redlands, and Cole Elementary School in San Bernardino. 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 the end of the week.

San Bernardino County Public Health Officer, Maxwell Ohikhuare, M.D., recommended the dismissal to contain the spread of H1N1 Influenza virus. Officials for the San Bernardino County Superintendents of Schools, School Districts, principals of the schools and Public Health staff discussed the recommendations and concurred that the dismissals of the schools is advisable. In addition the Boys & Girls Clubs of Redlands will temporarily close the Hansberger Clubhouse and the Brockton site as a precaution effective May 2, 2009. The Public Health Department staff and Club officials are in ongoing communication.

All schools and the Boys & Girls Clubs will reopen on May 11, 2009 based on the recommendations from CDC and Public Health Officials. People with H1N1 Influenza should be considered potentially contagious as long as they are symptomatic and possibly for up to 7 days following the onset of the illness. Children, especially younger children, might potentially be contagious for longer periods of time.

San Bernardino County Public Department continues to monitor surveillance for all confirmed and probable cases and will provide more information to the public when available. "The County Public Health Department's priority is to contain the virus and

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reduce further infection” stated Health Officer Maxwell Ohikhuare, M.D., with the Department of Public Health.

There have been four confirmed cases and seventeen probable cases of H1N1 Influenza in the county. Symptoms of H1N1 Influenza are similar to those of the common seasonal flu, which include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills, vomiting, diarrhea and fatigue.

Public Health is working to reduce the spread of H1N1 Influenza by:

- Actively monitoring the spread of H1N1 Influenza.
- Providing public information and working in conjunction with various health and community agencies to reduce the spread of H1N1 Influenza.
- Routinely communicating with County authorities, the California Department of Public Health and the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to address the status of the confirmed and probable cases.

For more details on H1N1 Influenza, call the County of San Bernardino Department of Public Health at 1 (800) 722-4794 between the hours of 8:00 AM and 5:00 PM Monday through Friday. Access the California Department of Public Health website at [www.cdph.ca.gov](http://www.cdph.ca.gov) or call the 24 hour hotline at 1-888-865-0564. Further information can also be obtained at The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/> or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.

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