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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SCHOOLS RE-OPEN

San Bernardino. San Bernardino County Department of Public Health along with officials from the San Bernardino County Superintendent of Schools, School Districts, and principals of schools agreed to re-open the following schools tomorrow May 6, 2009.

- Shandin Hills Middle School, Lytle Creek Elementary School, Cole Elementary School, and Barton Elementary School in the San Bernardino City Unified School District
- Ruth Harris Middle School in the Colton Joint Unified School District
- Clement Middle School in Redlands Unified School District
- Boys & Girls Clubs of Redlands—Dennis Hansberger Club House and Brockton site.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) initially recommended school dismissal as an option to lessen the risk of infection with the H1N1Influenza virus and in order to protect students, staff, parents and other caregivers from a potentially severe disease, as well as limit the spread of the virus into the community.

Over the last week, additional data collected nationally by the CDC and within California by the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) have provided a clearer picture of the disease caused by this new influenza virus. Most cases in the U.S. have not been severe; the spectrum of illness appears to be consistent with a

seasonal influenza. The CDC and CDPH have therefore released updated guidance today.

“At this time, the CDC recommends the primary means to reduce the spread of influenza in schools is to focus on early identification of sick students and staff, staying home when sick, and using good cough and hand hygiene etiquette,” stated San Bernardino County Public Health Officer, Maxwell Ohikhuare, M.D.

Specifically the CDC and CDPH recommend:

- School closure is no longer advised for either a suspected or confirmed case of H1N1 Influenza and, in general, is not advised unless there is a high faculty and/or student absenteeism that interferes with the school’s ability to function.
- Schools that were closed based on previous interim CDPH guidance related to this outbreak may reopen.
- Students, faculty or staff with influenza-like illness (fever with a cough or sore throat) should stay home and not attend school or go into the community except to seek medical care for at least 7 days after the onset of symptoms or until severe symptoms (e.g., fever) have resolved, whichever is longer.
- Students, faculty and staff who appear to have an influenza-like illness at arrival or become sick during the school day should be promptly sent home.

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 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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