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Governor

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State of Wisconsin
Department of Children and Families
Division of Early Care and Education

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October 7, 2009

Dear Child Care Providers:

As you may be aware, the Wisconsin Dells School District will close from October 7, 2009 through October 11, 2009 due to a high rate of absenteeism among students with influenza-like-illness. This school closure order encompasses the cancellation of all school activities and precludes public gatherings in all schools until further notice.

The Department of Children and Families (DCF) is sending you this letter as a reminder to be especially vigilant in not allowing children or staff who show signs of influenza-like-illness to be present in your centers.

Signs of seasonal flu or H1N1 flu (formerly known as swine flu) include:

- fever
- cough
- sore throat
- runny or stuffy nose
- body aches
- headache
- chills, and
- fatigue

Some people may also experience vomiting and diarrhea.

Please instruct parents to keep their children home when they are sick or have any flu-like illness for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever, or signs of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medicines. This directive also applies to your staff.

Other ways to stay healthy and to protect yourself and those around you from getting the flu include:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing. Alcohol-based hands cleaners are also effective.
- Stay away from people who are sick.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing (or use your shirt sleeve or elbow if no tissue is available.)
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.
- Frequently wash common surfaces, such as table tops and door knobs.
- Eat nutritious meals, get plenty of rest and do not smoke.

Your cooperation can help to reduce the spread of the H1N1 virus. For additional information on the H1N1 flu you may call 2-1-1 or go to www.pandemic.wisconsin.gov.

Thank you and be well,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Henry Wilde".

Henry Wilde