

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**DPHSS OFFICIALS PROVIDES GENERAL GUIDANCE FOR WORK AND SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT FOR THE PREVENTION OF THE H1N1 INFLUENZA VIRUS**

In keeping with the general interim guidance being released through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with regards to work and school environment for the prevention of the H1N1 Influenza virus, the Department of Public Health and Social Services officials are recommending appropriate precautions and work and school place practice to minimize the risk of potential employee and student exposure, illness and the spread of the H1N1 virus, through general preparedness and prevention strategies.

The interim guidelines include:

- Employees or students who are ill with influenza-like illness should remain home for 7 days from the onset of symptoms or 24 hours without any symptoms (no fever for 24 hours without any fever reducing drugs)
- For those employees returning to work and students returning to school:
  - Students or staff who has recovered from the influenza –like illness and it has been more than 7 days since the onset of the symptoms, should be able to return to school *without* clearance from a physician. (This guidance is applicable only to children older than 5 years old and staff, who are otherwise healthy without underlying medical conditions).

For more information, please visit the following website at [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov); the Department of Public Health and Social Services website at [www.dphss.guam.gov](http://www.dphss.guam.gov); or Guam Homeland Security/Office of Civil Defense website at [www.guamhs.org](http://www.guamhs.org). You may also call the Information Line at 735-H1N1 (4161).