



CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES

CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE

TO: Chief Executive Officers

FROM: Jack Scott, Chancellor

SUBJECT: Swine Flu Outbreak in California

DATE: April 27, 2009

A federal public health emergency was called on Saturday, April 25, concerning the current outbreak of Swine Flu in the United States – more notably, in California and Texas. President Obama said this morning that the Swine Flu epidemic is “obviously a cause for concern and requires a heightened state of alert.” He went on to say, “But this is not a cause for alarm.” I agree with President Obama’s statement and believe the best course of action for California Community Colleges is to have our campuses prepared to react rapidly should a confirmed case or outbreak of this flu present itself at one or more of our colleges.

I offer my support as your districts take all necessary precautions to avoid further spread of this dangerous flu strain. Should the situation escalate causing colleges to close, districts will continue to receive full funding by submitting an Attendance Allowance Request and/or Waiver of 175-Day Requirement Because of Emergency Conditions form, as explained by Title 5 Section 58146 of the California Code of Regulations. I will send more information on this course of action should it become necessary.

College staff are encouraged to set aside time in the near future to revisit your district’s emergency operations and business/education continuity plans. On the **Disaster Resistant California Community Colleges Task Force (DRCCC)** Web site (<http://emergency.cccco.edu>), you can find a link to the a *Colleges and Universities Pandemic Influenza Planning Checklist* created by the **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**. You may find this document useful in your framework to develop and/or improve plans to prepare for and respond to a possible Swine Flu outbreak on your campus.

The **California Department of Public Health** (www.cdph.ca.gov) and your local county public health offices should have further instructions and helpful information. You may also want to post the **CDC** link (http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/swineflu_you.htm) on your college Web site and/or distribute its “*Swine Influenza and You*” *Questions and Answers* document to your staff and students.

The Chancellor’s Office will continue to monitor the situation and keep open lines of communication between the Governor’s Office, the California Department of Public Health, and

the California Emergency Management Agency (CalEM).

I will continue to communicate information as it becomes available. We want to ensure all of our colleges are prepared to take action if necessary. If you or your staff have further questions, please feel free to contact our Director of Emergency Planning & Preparedness, Peter Wright, at 916.445.1798 or via e-mail at pwright@cccco.edu.

I am confident in the ability of our colleges to respond swiftly and appropriately to a situation should one occur. Thank you for your help in making our 110 California community colleges disaster resistant.

###