

**SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE A:
Health Services will use this type of press release to announce schools remain open**

For release (DATE)

Contact: (PIO name and number)

Contra Costa schools are open but parents should prepare

Contra Costa schools remain open despite the pandemic flu outbreak in the county but parents are asked to prepare for possible student dismissals if the virus continues to spread.

School and county health officials are working together to monitor the situation and parents will be updated with any important information.

“At this time, we believe students can safely attend classes and schools will remain open. Our thoughts are with all of our families and children who are affected,” said (health official)

If the pandemic flu continues to spread and more students become ill, health officials say they may need to dismiss students for a period of time. They urged parents to begin planning now for childcare in their home.

Health officials say parents can help protect their children and prevent the spread of pandemic flu as they would colds and other flu by taking the following precautions:

- Teach your children to wash hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds. Be sure to set a good example by doing this yourself.
- Teach your children to cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or by coughing into the inside of the elbow. Be sure to set a good example by doing this yourself.
- Teach your children to stay at least three feet from people who are sick. People who are sick should stay home from work or school and avoid other people until they are better.

Health officials point out that recommendations may change during the course of a pandemic flu outbreak. For school updates, parents can call the school district’s hotline at (INSERT NUMBER) or the Contra Costa Health Services’ Health Emergency Information Line at 1-888-959-9911.

For more information on pandemic flu, visit Contra Costa Health Services’ website at www.cchealth.org or the federal government website at www.pandemicflu.gov.