

SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE B:

Health Services will use this type of press release to announce student dismissals. A similar press release will be issued when students are allowed to return to school.

For immediate release (DATE)

Contact: (PIO name and number)

Health officials order student dismissals from schools in Contra Costa County

Contra Costa County health officials have ordered the dismissal of students from schools as a result of the pandemic flu outbreak in the county.

Students may be dismissed for a period of time - days or even weeks. Because the virus is easily spread from person-to-person, Contra Costa Health Services has also ordered students and children be dismissed from colleges, day care centers and preschools. Because it is unsafe for large groups of people to gather, health officials warn people to stay away from shopping malls, community centers and other places where germs can be spread.

“We know this is an anxious time for our community and our hearts go out to those who are ill. We are working closely with the schools to deal with the situation and will keep parents updated with any important information,” said (Local Health Official)

According to LOCAL HEALTH OFFICIAL, the purpose of student dismissals is to limit contact among children to decrease their risk of getting sick and to limit the spread of infection.

Because so many people are sick with the flu, health officials acknowledge that it may be hard to get a doctor’s appointment, go to a clinic or even be seen in a hospital emergency room. They provided some tips for residents to care for the sick at home:

- **Have them drink a lot of liquid (juice, water)**
- **Keep the sick person as comfortable as possible. Rest is important.**
- **For adults with fever, sore throat and muscle aches, use ibuprofen (Motrin) or acetaminophen (Tylenol). Do not use aspirin in children or teenagers; it can cause Reye’s syndrome, a life- threatening illness.**
- **Keep tissues and a trash bag within reach of the sick person.**
- **Be sure everyone in your home washes their hands frequently.**
- **Keep the people who are sick with the flu away from the people who are not sick.**

More information on pandemic flu is available on Contra Costa Health Services’ website at www.cchealth.org or by calling the CCHS Health Emergency Information Line: 1-888-959-9911.