



THE MAS REPORT

FROM STATE SENATE MAJORITY LEADER MALCOLM A. SMITH
DISTRICT 14

EMERGENCY REPORT

Dear Friend,

I would like to express my deep concern with the evolving situation of H1N1. I would also like to applaud the Mayor, Governor and city and state health agencies for their immediate and decisive response. I am in constant communication with city, state and federal officials and will continue to monitor the situation to ensure that the issues I raised earlier concerning the availability of test kits and tamiflu are addressed. With the increase of school closings over the past few days, my main concern is that parents, children and teachers have access to the health care tools they need while the appropriate health agencies continue to track and identify the spread of the influenza. As a parent who witnessed firsthand the fear and uncertainty that accompanies a medical issue involving our children, I want all New Yorkers to know that the city and state are doing everything possible to keep the public well-informed and protected from serious illness.

As always, my staff and I are here to assist you with important matters. Please do not hesitate to call my district office at (718) 528-4290 if you have any questions or concerns.

All my best,

Malcolm A. Smith
Senate Majority Leader

Facts about H1N1:

- The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has determined that this new H1N1 influenza virus is contagious and is spreading from human to human.
- The symptoms of this new H1N1 virus in people are similar to the symptoms of seasonal flu and include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. A significant number of people who have been infected with the virus also have reported diarrhea and vomiting. Also, like seasonal flu, severe illness and death has occurred as a result of illness associated with the virus.

Take these everyday steps to protect yourself:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people
- Stay home if you are sick for 7 days after your symptoms begin or until you have been symptom-free for 24-hours.