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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
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June 11, 2009

Dear School Superintendents,

Today the World Health Organization (WHO) has changed the level of the current H1N1 outbreak to Phase 6 (highest level). This change in level represents the spread of the illness globally but does not reflect any change in severity of the illness.

The Nassau County Department of Health's goal since the outbreak began has been to proactively communicate and advise about the prevention and control guidelines. These guidelines from New York State Department of Health and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have not changed to date. I will notify you of any changes as soon as they become available. In this way the schools may do the planning and preparation necessary to keep their students and staff safe and secure.

Although the virus continues to spread to other countries, the disease continues to be a mild one for the most part. Health officials are not seeing significant changes in the virus in samples from various countries.

I am including the most recent **CDC guidelines** as well as the most recent **National Association of County and City Health Officials fact sheet on Pandemic Phase 6 Novel H1N1 Flu** for your information.

New York State Department of Health has an information line that can be reached at 1-800-808-1987. Furthermore, I can be reached at 516-227-9500 for your assistance. I thank you for your continued cooperation.

Sincerely,

Maria Torroella Carney, MD, FACP
Commissioner
Nassau County Department of Health