



**Rhode Island Department of Health**  
Three Capitol Hill  
Providence, RI 02908-5094

[www.health.ri.gov](http://www.health.ri.gov)

## Interim Health Advisory

Date: May 1, 2009

To: Rhode Island Food Establishments

From: Director of Health, David R. Gifford, MD, MPH

Re: Restaurants & H1N1 Virus (Swine Flu)

### **How Flu Spreads**

Flu spreads when you cough or sneeze into your hand and do not wash your hands before you touch something or shake hands with someone.

### **Important Reminders for Food Services**

- Maintain employee handwashing vigilance through active education.
- Assure strict glove-use policy for all staff who work in food preparation, ready to eat foods or are handling eating utensils. Ensure that gloves are changed frequently and that hands are washed between glove changes.
- Any employee who has a fever and cough or sore throat should not come to work while experiencing symptoms.
- Follow current standing policies on cleaning your business.

### **Resources**

- CDC Swine Influenza Site: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu>
- Rhode Island Department of Health Swine Influenza Site: <http://www.health.ri.gov/pandemicinfluenza/swineinfluenza/swineinfluenza.php>
- WHO Swine Influenza Site: <http://www.who.int/en/>