

**Department of Public Health Update Regarding the Distribution
of Face Masks to Help Prevent the Spread
Of Flu-like Symptoms in Schools**

October 27, 2009

The Connecticut Department of Public Health (DPH) has identified school nurses and school nurse practitioners as a priority group in the H1N1 Influenza pandemic and will be distributing one case of 500 surgical masks to each school district.

The surgical masks are only to be used for:

Placement on children who come to school with or develop flu-like symptoms during the school day. The children should be placed in a monitored area, away from main congregate areas, that has limited access until taken home. Masks should not be issued to persons picking up ill children; and

Staff who are assigned to the “clinic” or equivalent area and are responsible for monitoring ill children. It is also advisable that the number of personnel that perform these activities be restricted in number.

**Masks are not recommended as a general prevention measure for healthy children and staff.
The mask allocation can only be used as defined above**