



USDOE: Safe and Drug Free Schools Conference

August 2009

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**Department of
Education**

Joel I. Klein, Chancellor

NYC Department of Education: The Largest System of Public Schools

What is unique about NYC DOE?

- > We serve 1.1 million children
- > In over 1,500 schools across the five boroughs
- > In over 1,100 school buildings
- > NYC schools cover 125 million square feet of floor space across the 5 boroughs
- > Students speak more than 150 languages at home
- > We serve 180,000 breakfasts and 600,000 lunches each day

H1N1 in NYC: Unique Characteristics

Timeline: April 27th to June 8th

- > Began in a non-public school and spread to many schools in Queens and a few schools in the other boroughs

One of the first deaths was a beloved Assistant Principal in Queens

Partnership with DOH and DOE: DOH became the Incident Commander

- > NYC Office of School Health is an office that resides in both DOH and DOE

NYC DOE Response: What Worked Well

- > Strong coordination and collaboration between DOH and DOE
- > **Planning, Planning, Planning:** Our Continuity of Operations Plan was realized and put into action
- > We were able to adjust quickly and respond accordingly as more information became available
- > Continually updating information on our website, such as FAQs for parents and the larger school community

NYC DOE Response: What Worked Well

- > The Health Coordinators and School Nurses supporting schools
- > **Support, Support, Support:** From borough based ISCs, to School Support Organization networks, to Central staff
- > Timely response to support schools was key
- > Learn at Home study guides: both on-line and at distribution sites
- > The plan when schools re-opened

Some Challenges We Faced:

- > Managing expectations and ensuring that information was accurate
- > Managing misinformation
- > Managing messaging when new information was known
- > Managing coverage to ensure all schools affected received support

Where we are now: Our next steps

OEM had developed and organized a cross-functional task force this summer to plan for possible Fall resurgence

- > DOH, DOE, OEM, Non-Publics at the table
- > Sub-groups have been formed (examples):
 - Data analysis and trigger recommendations
 - DOE contingency plans
 - Labor and public relations
 - Inoculations
- > Work with State Education Department

The goal is to keep NYC schools open!

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