



Office of Public Health

System-Wide Notice

H1N1 Preparedness and the Fall Flu Season

As we enter the fall flu season, preparedness efforts are continuing at the federal, state, and local levels. In the northern hemisphere, the novel H1N1 influenza, has continued to cause outbreaks and sporadic cases this summer. Many of the cases of illness, hospitalization, and death associated with the novel H1N1 infection have mostly occurred in persons 65 years of age and younger. Those that are at most risk for influenza associated complications are also at an increased risk for seasonal flu, including pregnant women, those with asthma, COPD, diabetes, chronic cardiovascular disease, and immuno-compromised persons.

The NPS Office of Public health will continue to monitor the H1N1 flu issue and work with the Emergency Services Branch, Risk Management, and other NPS offices to provide updates and guidance to parks on H1N1 flu issues. Although the H1N1 flu virus is already widespread in most areas of the country, the disease severity from H1N1 has remained mild. Many H1N1 cases have occurred and will likely continue amongst NPS employees, staff, and visitors. Even though the disease severity of H1N1 for this coming fall is not predictable, there are certain precautions and preparation that parks and individuals can take to prepare themselves for the upcoming flu season (see web resources listed below).

Updates

- The Office of Public Health will be launching an educational campaign on H1N1 in the fall to include widespread distribution of posters and handouts for parks to display and distribute.
- The Office of Public Health contact for H1N1 is:
 - CDR David Wong, MD, Medical Epidemiologist: 505-248-7806
 - park units may also contact their Public Health Consultant for assistance
- Risk management will provide park units with a respiratory protection guidance document and the NPS Emergency Services Branch will assist parks with information about purchasing masks.
 - Questions and guidance regarding purchasing masks, please contact:
 - Dean Ross, Emergency Services: 202-513-7093
 - Questions and guidance regarding fit testing and OSHA regulations, please contact:
 - Mike May, Risk Management: 202-513-7222

H1N1 Resources

- Parks can refer to the following Office of Public Health website for the most up to date information on H1N1. The website also contains the NPS avian flu plan and modifications for using that plan given the current H1N1 situation:
<http://inside.nps.gov/waso/waso.cfm?prg=122&lv=2>
- Parks can refer the public on questions relating to H1N1 to the following site:
http://www.nps.gov/public_health/index.htm
- US situation updates and general H1N1 information can be found at the Centers for Disease Control Prevention: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>

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