

EMAIL SENT TO ALL DOI EMPLOYEES 4/28/09 2:19pm

Memorandum

To: All Department of the Interior Employees

From: Secretary

Subject: Message to Employees

Officials in the Department of the Interior are working closely with the Department of Homeland Security and the Office of Personnel Management to be responsive and stay informed about swine flu outbreaks. I have mobilized the Department's emergency preparedness organization to be ready to respond and to help with the situation in any way we can. My primary consideration is ensuring your safety and keeping you informed.

Human cases of swine flu have been identified in several states and in other countries. Unlike the situation in Mexico, where deaths have been associated with the disease, cases in the U.S. have been less severe. While medical experts continue to evaluate the virus, resources from across the Federal Government have been mobilized to provide guidance to the American public and protect public health.

It is important to recognize the ongoing nature of this event and the fact that public health guidance may change as this event transpires and more becomes known about this virus. Public health officials advise that good health habits like covering your mouth when you cough and washing your hands can often help stop the spread of germs and prevent respiratory illnesses like the flu. Those who do catch the flu are strongly encouraged to seek medical help.

The best source of information about the flu can be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>. This site contains the latest information and will address questions that you may have regarding the current situation.

Throughout this situation, it is important that you stay informed and act wisely to protect your own health, the health of your co-workers, and be available to serve the public. We may be asked to step in and assist in efforts to respond to this event. In the meantime, each of us must take personal responsibility to practice the good health habits advised by medical experts. Within the Department, we will make information available to Interior employees at <http://www.doi.gov/emergency/>. Your health, your families' well being, and the health of the Nation are foremost in my mind, and we will continue to provide the best possible information that we can.

Thank you