

# Swine flu spreads in New York City

### CDC puts number of confirmed and probable U.S. cases at 4,700

By Amy Westfield  
Associated Press Writer

**NEW YORK** — The swine flu virus continues spreading in New York City — closing more schools and showing up in a jail — while the disease also reached further into Asia among travelers returning from the United States.

An assistant school principal in New York remained hospitalized in critical condition Saturday and an inmate who entered the city's jail complex on Rikers Island about a month ago was diagnosed with swine flu on Friday.

The city Department of Correction said that the flu hadn't spread to other prisoners in the 13,200-inmate system.

The Rikers Island inmate — whose name or reason for being in custody wasn't released — was improving since his hospitalization on Wednesday and wasn't in seri-

ous condition. Correction Department spokesman Stephen Morello said.

Morello said the inmate came into contact with about 70 other prisoners in two housing units at the center, and all had been examined and none came down with the flu.

The jail canceled weekend visits for those inmates and advised any other inmates' family members who were feeling ill not to come, he said. Surgical masks were passed out to those inmates and officers on the two housing units; hand sanitizer was given to everyone in the jails, he said.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says more than 4,700 confirmed and probable cases have been reported in 46 U.S. states plus the District of Columbia. Five people have died in the United States, all with underlying ailments.

Internationally, Malaysia, India and Turkey have reported their first cases, all involving people who had traveled from the United States. They are in addition to the 36 other countries where the World Health Organization says more than 8,000 cases of the disease have been confirmed.



The Associated Press City Correction Department spokesman Stephen Morello says that an inmate at New York City's Rikers Island prison is ill with swine flu and went to a hospital in the borough of Queens, although his condition is not serious.

The assistant principal in New York, Mitchell Wiener, worked at one of six schools that have been closed for a week because of the latest rash of suspected swine flu cases. Wiener's wife, Bonnie, told reporters he had been feverish and sick for nearly a week before his intermediate school shut down. Wiener's

son, Adam, said his father began "hallucinating and wasn't coherent" on Wednesday before he was rushed to a hospital.

City health officials are tracking schools with high absence rates. A spokesman for the United Federation of Teachers, Ron Davis, said it received reports from 18 other schools of high student absences and had forwarded the information to the city's health department.

Spokeswoman Jessica Scaperotti said the health department was "continuing to monitor the influenza-like symptoms in all schools throughout the city and will evaluate on a case-by-case basis."

In Turkey, health officials said the virus was detected in a man and his mother who had traveled to Istanbul from the U.S. The Health Ministry said the two had arrived Thursday in Istanbul via Amsterdam were traveling to Iraq.

Thermal cameras at the Istanbul airport detected a high fever in the man and he was put under observation at Istanbul's Haseki hospital along with five other family members.

A lab later detected the H1N1 virus, the formal name for swine flu, in the man and his mother. Four other family members did not have the virus, the ministry said.

Japan on Saturday confirmed the first case of swine flu caught within the country, showing that the effort to block the flu at the island nation's borders had failed.

The government ordered schools closed in parts of the port city of Kobe, where the Ministry of Health said a male high school student who had not recently traveled abroad tested positive for the virus. Two other students at the same school were suspected of having the virus.

The latest confirmed case is Japan's fifth overall. The first four — three high school students and a teacher — had recently returned from a school trip to Canada.

# California budget left in voters' hands

### State to conduct special election to solve deficit

By Judy Lin  
Associated Press Writer

**SACRAMENTO, Calif.** — California residents will get the chance to decide what happens to their tax dollars in a special election next week, but whether the electorate registers their approval — or even show up to vote — it won't make much of an improvement in the state's gaping budget hole.

Lawmakers and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger arranged Tuesday's special election on six ballot measures in February, when they agreed to a budget package that was intended to close a \$42 billion deficit through the middle of next year. But even after cutting \$15 billion in spending, raising taxes by \$12.8 billion and borrowing more than \$11 billion, the budget deficit has reappeared amid a global economic recession.



The Associated Press Supporters of child care workers demonstrate against proposed budget cuts to Sacramento, Calif. On Tuesday, California voters will go to the polls for a special election to decide how to deal with the state's multibillion-dollar budget deficit.

Analysts say the six ballot measures are a recipe for electoral disaster because of their complexity and the lack of support from a unified state Legislature. The election also comes at a time of rising unemployment rates, plunging home values and deep distrust of state politicians, leaving voters in a foul mood.

Analysts have questioned whether it's smart for lawmakers to place so much of the state's annual budgeting process in the hands of the electorate.

"It's not particularly wise to put to voters these decisions," said Jessica Levinson, director of political reform for Center for Governmental Studies in Los Angeles. "It not only causes the expense of having elections, it causes voter fatigue, it causes voter disgust with the system."

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