



## Dickinson-Iron District Health Department

### Dickinson County

818 Pyle Drive, Kingsford, MI 49802  
Ph: (906) 774-1868 Fax: (906) 774-9910  
BRANCH OFFICE

[www.didhd.org](http://www.didhd.org)

### Iron County

601 Washington Avenue, Iron River, MI 49935  
Ph: (906) 265-9913 Fax: (906) 265-2950  
MAIN OFFICE

### For Immediate Release

Contact: Sheila McNulty, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator  
Phone: 906 779-7205  
Email: [smcnulty@hline.org](mailto:smcnulty@hline.org)

### Health Department Reports Successful School Pandemic Influenza Table-top Exercise

Kingsford, Michigan – April 17, 2008. On Thursday, April 10, 2008 the Dickinson-Iron District Health Department facilitated a Pandemic Preparedness table-top exercise with local schools and local emergency response agencies. The following schools and agencies participated in the exercise: Breitung Township Schools, Iron Mountain Schools, Dickinson Area Catholic School, North Dickinson School, Norway School, Dickinson-Iron Intermediate Schools, Iron County Chamber of Commerce, Dickinson County Emergency Services, the 4C's of the Upper Peninsula, and the Dickinson-Iron District Health Department.

The purpose of the exercise was for school personnel and emergency response agencies to coordinate an effective response to a pandemic influenza outbreak. During the exercise, the schools discussed the mechanisms for communicating with the staff, parents, and students during a pandemic, they described options for the continuity of education during a pandemic, they described how schools would be utilized to support the community during a pandemic, and they discussed the process for reopening schools after the pandemic subsides.

Many lessons were learned from the exercise. The exchange of information was very beneficial to the schools. The information will assist the schools in developing their pandemic response plans. There is also a great willingness of schools to work with local emergency response partners to respond to an influenza pandemic or other emergency.

For more information on pandemic influenza, please visit the Dickinson-Iron District Health Department website at [www.didhd.org](http://www.didhd.org) or contact Carol Thornton or Sheila McNulty at (906) 774-1868 or (906) 265-9913.

###