



# News Release

## From Seattle Public Schools

For Immediate Release: Monday, May 4, 2009

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### **Seattle Public Schools to re-open Madrona K-8, Stevens Elementary and Aki Kurose Middle School on Tuesday, May 5**

#### **The three schools' start times will be delayed two hours**

Seattle Public Schools received guidance this weekend from Public Health – Seattle & King County (PHS&KC) that it is revising its recommendations on school closures related to the H1N1 influenza. PHS&KC announced Sunday that it is no longer recommending that schools close based on one or two probable cases of H1N1 in a school. Instead they are stressing the importance of symptom checks at home and at school. Seattle Public Schools closed three schools, Madrona K-8, Stevens Elementary and Aki Kurose Middle School, last week based on recommendations from PHS&KC.

Due to the recently announced change in the PHS&KC policy, Seattle Public Schools will re-open Madrona K-8, Stevens Elementary and Aki Kurose Middle School on Tuesday, May 5. All three schools will open with a two-hour delay in their start times.

- **Aki Kurose Middle School will start at 10:00 a.m.**
- **Madrona K-8 will start at 10:45 a.m.**
- **Stevens Elementary will start at 11:15 a.m.**

There will be no morning kindergarten for Madrona K-8; afternoon kindergarten will start at its regular time. Also breakfast will not be served at all three schools.

The two-hour delay allows time for staff to meet with a PHS&KC official and prepare for students' arrival. PHS&KC officials will answer staff questions and review how to check for flu symptoms. PHS&KC will continue to work closely with Seattle Public Schools to determine the best ways for schools to continue to monitor students for flu symptoms. PHS&KC has also been stressing that parents will have the primary responsibility for symptom checks at home and have developed a simplified check list for families to use.

PHS&KC advises that parents continue to check their children for flu symptoms every morning. If a child is sick, they must stay home. If a student arrives at school sick or becomes sick during the day, school staff will call parents or guardians to come to school to pick up the student. Flu symptoms include fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit or more), sore throat, cough, runny nose, body aches, vomiting or diarrhea.

For additional information, please visit [www.seattleschools.org](http://www.seattleschools.org) or the PHS&KC Web site at [www.metrokc.gov](http://www.metrokc.gov) or call the PHS&KC flu hotline at 1-877- 903-5464.

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