



MAINTENANCE  
SUPPLY CORP.

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Dear Customer:

Influenza Virus A (H1N1), commonly referred to as "Swine Flu", has reached the World Health Organization (WHO) pandemic alert level of 6 on a 1 to 6 scale. A Phase 6 alert is characterized by confirmed person-to person spread of a new influenza virus in at least 2 WHO regions. A pandemic alert advises about the widespread activity of a virus, but does not speak to the severity of the disease outbreak.

Like seasonal flu, this new flu strain can vary in severity from mild to severe. The CDC has stated that the virus was a never-before-seen mixture of viruses typical among pigs, birds and humans.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Public Health Agency of Canada, and the Ministry of Health in Mexico have been tracking the cases and have confirmed the presence of Influenza virus A (H1N1) (swine flu) in their respective regions along with health agencies around the world. The national health agencies are continuing to work with local and state officials to investigate new cases and initiate the appropriate local response.

Anything we can do to help minimize the spread of germs that may cause illness makes good sense. Handwashing and hand sanitizing are especially critical to minimize the spread of germs during times of illness outbreak.

The CDC is recommending the following precautionary measures:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you get sick, CDC recommends that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.

Because it is an evolving situation, we recommend the following sites for updated information:

US: CDC website <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/swine/investigation.htm>

Canada: Public Health Agency of Canada website <http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/index-eng.php>

World Health Organization website <http://www.who.int/en/>

In the meantime, facilities should ensure the availability of materials for adhering to Respiratory Hygiene/Cough Etiquette. Tissues and conveniently located dispensers of alcohol-based hand sanitizers are recommended.

All products are available at [www.parish-supply.com](http://www.parish-supply.com)