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The Authoritative Resource on Safe Water®

Public Affairs Advisory

TO: AWWA Leadership
All Utilities

FROM: AWWA Public Affairs

DATE: May 4, 2009

Who:	Centers for Disease Control
What:	Language on H1N1 (swine flu) and drinking water
When:	May 4, 2009

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has updated its information on the H1N1 virus – previously known as swine flu – to include information related to drinking water. The information notes that “tap water that has been treated by conventional disinfection processes does not likely pose a risk for transmission of influenza viruses. Current drinking water treatment regulations provide a high degree of protection from viruses.”

www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/swineflu_you.htm

While CDC notes that no research has been completed on the susceptibility of H1N1 flu virus to conventional drinking water treatment processes, it is likely that influenza viruses such as H1N1 would be inactivated by chlorination.

Flu viruses are spread mainly from person to person. To date, there have been no documented human cases of influenza caused by exposure to influenza-contaminated drinking water. Critical messages for consumers and staff continue to focus on utility prepare for pandemic influenza to minimize disruptions to critical water service.

Attached are some talking points to assist you in communicating about H1N1 if you are contacted by media.

Please contact Greg Kail, gkail@awwa.org, or Deirdre Mueller, dmueller@awwa.org, at AWWA Public Affairs with questions.