



TO: ABA Members

FROM: President & CEO Peter Pantuso

DATE: September 9, 2009

RE: H1N1 (Swine Flu) Guidance/Tools For Bus, Tour & Travel Industry

ABA staff just participated in the invitation-only joint Department of Homeland Security/Centers for Disease Control private sector communications teleconference this afternoon regarding H1N1. Other participants from the travel industry included the American Trucking Associations and the National Association of Truck Stop Operators.

Norm Littler, who serves as Chairman of the Highway & Motor Carrier Sector Coordinating Council, the primary advisory body to DHS on highway transportation security and emergency preparedness, asked physicians from CDC on the call about any reports from local, state or regional governments suggesting restricting travel. The reply from the federal government agencies was that they were not aware of such recommendations from those agencies at any level. They added that **at this time there is no justification at this time to restrict domestic travel.** Littler, who also serves as Executive Director of the Bus Industry Safety Council, followed up by asking for elaboration, to which doctors replied that current recommendations and practicing good hygiene and common sense (e.g., staying home when sick), are sufficient at present.

All operators are encouraged to follow the guidance and precautions contained in this alert and to read the linked materials at the bottom, and to bookmark <http://www.flu.gov>, which should be checked daily for updates.

Should a passenger become ill and leave the motorcoach to be treated, CDC advises that the following surfaces should be cleaned at the seat of the ill passenger (or driver) and at adjacent seats in the same row, the backs of the seats in the row in front of the sick passenger's row or areas that the traveler frequented. Clean surfaces first with detergent and water and then disinfect with an EPA-registered disinfectant for use against influenza viruses. Ensure there is sufficient contact time between the disinfectant and the surface.

Be sure to clean the following surfaces:

- Armrests

- Seatbacks (the plastic and/or metal part)
- Tray tables
- Personal lights and climate controls
- Adjacent windows
- Individual video monitor
- Lavatory(ies) used by the sick traveler: door handle, locking device, toilet seat, faucet, washbasin, adjacent walls and counter
- Luggage compartments
- Door handles

When cleaning, be sure to:

- Wear non-sterile, disposable gloves that are recommended by the manufacturer of the detergent/disinfectant while cleaning the seating area and lavatories or handling cleaning and disinfecting solutions. Never wash or reuse the gloves.
- Dispose of gloves if they become damaged or soiled and, when cleaning is completed, place them in a leakproof (e.g., plastic) bag securely tied shut.
- Wear eye protection, such as a face shield or goggles, if splashing is expected.
- A change to increased frequency of routine cleaning and disinfection practices may be considered based upon the circumstances of the pandemic.
- State and local governments should be consulted for appropriate disposal decisions. Barring specific state solid or medical waste regulations to the contrary, these wastes are considered routine solid wastes that can be sent to municipal solid waste landfills without treatment.
- When cleaning is completed and gloves have been removed, immediately clean hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand gel if no soap and water are available. Wash hands with soap and water as soon as they become available. Avoid touching the face with gloved or unwashed hands.

For more information visit: www.flu.gov. Information on this website is updated daily.

CDC Pandemic Flu Guidance for Businesses and Employers:

<http://www.flu.gov/professional/business/guidance.html>

Preparing for the Flu: A Communication Toolkit for Businesses and Employers:

<http://www.flu.gov/professional/business/toolkit.html>

EPA Registered Disinfectants:

<http://www.epa.gov/oppad001/chemregindex.htm>

Travel Industry Pandemic Checklist:

<http://www.flu.gov/professional/business/travelchecklist.html>

CDC H1N1 Vaccination Recommendations:

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/vaccination/acip.htm>

Possible Novel H1N1 Flu Screening for International Travelers:

<http://www.cdc.gov/travel/content/news-announcements/delays-H1N1-screening.aspx>

As always, please feel free to call me at 202-218-7229 or email me at ppantuso@buses.org if you have any questions.