

Joint Statement by Education Secretary Duncan, Homeland Security Secretary Napolitano and Health and Human Services Secretary Sebelius on Today's Bipartisan Congressional Briefing on the H1N1 Flu Virus

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Today, we joined together with White House Homeland Security Advisor John Brennan and Dr. Anne Schuchat of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, at the request of Democratic and Republican leaders in the House and Senate, to brief members of Congress on preparation for the H1N1 flu virus this fall.

We updated a bipartisan group of members on planning efforts by government agencies and the health community to prepare the nation. We asked them to join in our efforts to encourage Americans across the country to begin planning and preparing for the fall flu season.

President Obama has asked his key Cabinet officers to work closely with our state, local, territorial and tribal partners and provide them with critical information and resources in the coming months, as we prepare for a likely vaccination program this fall. Most importantly, we continue to engage in an ongoing effort to inform and educate the public, the private sector, schools and academic institutions on actions that can be taken before the traditional flu season begins this fall.

Minimizing the effects of H1N1 is a shared responsibility. Americans can start preparing today by logging on to www.flu.gov and taking advantage of the flu prevention information and planning guidelines located on the site.

We will continue to monitor the virus here in the United States as well as overseas to fulfill the President's top priority of keeping the American people safe and secure."

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