



## **As 2009-10 School Year Begins, Forest Hills School District Custodial Staff Finds A New Ally In The Battle Against Swine Flu**

**CINCINNATI, OH** — It's not the kind of news that anyone likes to hear, but earlier this summer the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) announced that it was anticipating more cases, more hospitalizations and more deaths associated with novel influenza A (H1N1)—commonly referred to as swine flu—as the fall and winter of 2009 approach. This CDC assessment was backed by a White House report that was released on Aug. 25 that suggests as many as 2 million people could be hospitalized with swine flu this winter, with the possibility of between 30,000 and 90,000 H1N1-related deaths. The report is titled "On US Preparations for 2009-H1N1 Influenza" and was compiled by the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology.

In June, the World Health Organization determined that swine flu had become a global pandemic, based on the more than 130 countries in which its outbreak has been reported. The United States has reported the largest number of cases of any country worldwide, with all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and the territories of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands all having reported H1N1 infections. As the 2009-10 school year begins to kick off around the country, this can be sobering and alarming news for the nation's school districts, their staffs, students and parents.

The CDC recommends that cleaning staffs become more diligent when it comes to cleaning and sanitizing procedures. According to the CDC, school cleaning staffs should be especially concerned with the thorough cleaning of high-contact areas such as restroom sinks and fixtures, desks, door and locker handles, and computer keyboards.

While school-district custodial staffs have long done a tremendous job in ensuring the cleanliness of their facilities, it can't hurt to have as many weapons at your disposal in the battle against H1N1. That's one of the reasons that the Forest Hills School District, which is located in Cincinnati's southeast suburbs and serves more than 7,700 students, has turned to automated touchless cleaning units as part of its daily cleaning regimens. One product they are using is the ICS mobile-cleaning unit from Cincinnati-based Hydro Systems Co, the world's largest independent manufacturer of portioning, dosing and dispensing systems for concentrated chemicals. This concern for students and staff is a tradition at Forest Hills, which has received a ranking of "Excellent" for nine consecutive years from the State of Ohio.

"Swine flu and other communicable diseases are definitely a concern of ours and we've stepped up our measures in terms of how we clean classrooms, restrooms and locker rooms," said Kevin Reid, Forest Hills' Assistant Head of Maintenance and District Supervisor of the Custodial Staff. "When people see the no-touch cleaning equipment they feel a little more comfortable and at ease. It's the latest-and-greatest technology, rather than seeing custodial staff walking about with a mop or rag. It presents an entirely different image. We take pride in being a blue-ribbon school district and the no-touch cleaning systems help us live up to our reputation and meet our goals."

Specifically, the Hydro Systems ICS 8900 touchless cleaning system is a self-contained portable cleaning system that uses correctly dosed cleaning chemicals that are applied by spray nozzle using low-flow/low-pressure technology. Utilizing Hydro Systems' proven select valve technology, cleaning and sanitizing chemicals are correctly dosed every time, effectively and consistently killing germs and toxins, particularly in hard-to-reach and often-overlooked areas, which can be swine-flu breeding grounds. While using the ICS 8900 cannot prevent a swine flu outbreak, it does help lessen the chances, and can also be used to assist in cleaning and sanitation if an unfortunate outbreak does occur.

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For more information on H1N1 swine flu and its prevention, please visit the following Web sites:

- <http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1FLU/>
- <http://www.cooley-dickinson.org/node/307>
- <http://www.healthyfellow.com/223/swine-flu-prevention/>
- <http://www.aboutflu.net/swine-flu-tips.htm>

**For more information on Hydro Systems' ICS 8900 touchless cleaning unit, go to [www.hydro-ics.com](http://www.hydro-ics.com).**

*Hydro Systems Co., founded in 1963, is the world's largest independent manufacturer of proportioning, dosing and dispensing systems for concentrated chemicals, serving the janitorial, institutional, foodservice, commercial cleaning, industrial and automotive-care markets. All of Hydro Systems' proportioning, dosing, foaming and dispensing systems meet International Plumbing Code (IPC), Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) and American Society of Sanitary Engineering (ASSE) 1055: Performance Requirements for Chemical Dispensers regulatory standards and codes. Headquartered in Cincinnati, OH, Hydro Systems also maintains international offices in the United Kingdom, Brazil, Australia and China. For more information, please visit [www.hydrosystemsco.com](http://www.hydrosystemsco.com).*