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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 29, 2009

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**State Schools Chief Jack O'Connell, Assembly Member Torlakson Discuss Spread of Swine Flu, Encourage Precautionary Measures and Up-to-Date School Safety Plans**

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell today will join Assembly Member Tom Torlakson, Contra Costa County Superintendent of Schools Joseph A. Ovick, Pittsburg Unified School District Superintendent Barbara Wilson, and Contra Costa Health Services Director and County Health Officer Dr. William Walker, at a news conference in Pleasant Hill encouraging school districts to make sure their required School Safety Plans include responses to pandemic flu. O'Connell will also highlight the importance for students, parents, and educators to take precautionary measures (i.e. washing hands thoroughly and covering sneezes and coughs) to guard against the spread of the recently reported outbreak of swine influenza, also referred to as H1N1 flu. O'Connell will strongly urge students, their parents, and school officials to download a free "Keep Our Schools Healthy" tool kit in multiple languages to help prevent the spread of germs and viruses. The tool kit can be downloaded by visiting <http://www.cde.ca.gov/148645>.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Wednesday, April 29, 2009</b>
<b>Time</b>	<b>1:00 p.m.</b>
<b>Place</b>	<b>Contra Costa County Office of Education 77 Santa Barbara Road Pleasant Hill</b>

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