Proclamation of Emergency

Authorizing State Agencies and Personnel to Assist with the Receipt, Transportation and Storage of Medicine and Supplies Associated with the Swine Flu Virus

1. The Swine Flu Virus Has Been Identified in Ohio. On April 24, 2009, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, confirmed a case of swine Influenza A (H1N1) virus infection (the swine flu virus) in the State, creating potentially dangerous conditions which may affect the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Ohio.

2. The Virus Has the Potential to Impact Many Ohioans. Although the case that has been identified in Ohio has so far been mild, the lives and well-being of the citizens of the State may potentially be impacted by the swine flu virus. Accordingly, the issuance of this Proclamation of Emergency is an important tool in the State's preparation to identify and obtain the necessary resources and assets to respond to this developing situation.

3. Swine Flu Virus Assistance is Being Provided to Ohioans. As a result of the confirmation of one case in Ohio, I have, through the Ohio Department of Health, requested the deployment of medicine and supplies from the Strategic National Stockpile of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Materials contained in the shipment will be used to treat those individuals with confirmed cases of the swine flu virus. Various state departments and agencies will assist with the receipt, storage, and transportation of those materials.

4. Determination of Emergency for the State. I believe that an emergency exists justifying the authorization of such personnel of the State's agencies as necessary, in accordance with Section 5502.22 of the Ohio Revised Code, to assist in receiving, storing, and transporting materials necessary to protect the lives,
safety, and health of its citizens. I hereby also authorize the Adjutant General, pursuant to Section 5923.21 of the Ohio Revised Code, to order to state active duty status, any necessary personnel and units of the Ohio National Guard. Those units and personnel will act pursuant to the orders issued on my behalf by the Adjutant General, and through him, the commanding officers of the units of the Ohio National Guard to assist with the receipt, storage, and transport of materials necessary to protect the lives, safety, and health of Ohioans. The Adjutant General shall provide for all transportation, services, equipment, and supplies necessary for the designated units of the Ohio National Guard.

5. This Determination of Emergency is not a Public Safety Emergency. This Proclamation of Emergency does not implement the Department of Administrative Services Directive 08-03 or Ohio Emergency Management Agency procedures. Accordingly, classified and unclassified exempt employees' obligation to travel to and from work is not limited as a result of this Proclamation of Emergency.

6. I signed this Proclamation of Emergency on April 28, 2009, in Columbus, Ohio and it will take effect immediately. It will remain in effect until the circumstances necessitating it no longer exist, such time to be determined by the Executive Director of the Emergency Management Agency in consultation with appropriate officials of other responding state agencies and impacted local governments.

Ted Strickland, Governor