

**Comments by Fort Worth Mayor Mike Moncrief  
Swine Influenza A Press Conference,  
Thursday, April 30, 2009  
2:30 pm City Hall**

On April 26<sup>th</sup>, the Acting Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services made an official determination that a public health emergency existed. This was as a result of confirmed cases of Swine Influenza A. On April 29<sup>th</sup>, Governor Rick Perry declared a state of disaster based on the threat to the health, safety and security of the citizens of our state. The Fort Worth Independent School District closed all schools and strongly recommends that all students stay home.

Based on the recommendation from our county Health Authority, we have decided that it is in the best interest of the public's health to cancel Mayfest and [postpone] Saturday's downtown *Avenue of Light* event. The Downtown Cinco de Mayo event will be rescheduled and the MS150 Bike Tour event will be rerouted. Citizens can get information about the downtown Cinco de Mayo event at [www.cowtowncincodemayo.com](http://www.cowtowncincodemayo.com). You can visit [BikeMSTexas.org](http://BikeMSTexas.org) for the new finish line.

All of our public facilities remain open at this time; however, all scheduled programming at Fort Worth community centers will be canceled until further notice. This includes after school programs, sports activities, senior activities, etc. There has been some question about voting locations, and it is our understanding that all polling places in Tarrant County will remain open.

These are tough decisions affecting a lot of people, but they are simply precautionary measures to slow the potential spread of the Swine Influenza as recommended by Tarrant County Public Health Officials. Earlier today, I spoke to Elizabeth Basham with Mayfest. She indicated her disappointment, but certainly understands the direction by the county health officials. Father Hasso of All Saints Catholic Church, who is here today, also understands and is canceling a Cinco de Mayo celebration at his church.

I want to stress that there is no need for alarm, but we must err on the side of caution in order to protect the health and welfare of the public. We continue to closely monitor this fluid situation and will keep the public informed.

Our city staff is working carefully with school, county, state and federal officials to make any adjustments as appropriate. We are confident that we have all the people and pieces in place to ensure a swift and effective response to the changing circumstances.

To the parents of FWISD whose children or grandchildren are out of school, I want to strongly encourage you to follow the instructions of the Fort Worth ISD

and our county health officials. To all our citizens, please be wise, use good judgment and be cautious.

Use common sense precautions to reduce the spread of infections such as:

- Avoiding close contact with people who are sick
- Stay home when you are sick
- Cover your mouth and nose to reduce the spread of germs
- Wash your hands thoroughly and often
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Avoid large gatherings – you know where those might be. Use your head!

As your mayor, this Council and I want you to know that our top priority is your safety.

This is one more challenge for our city but one I am confident that we will address by once again working together, as we always do in the Fort Worth way.

And now, I would like to ask Dr. Sandra Parker, the local County Health Authority and Public Health Medical Director to say a few words.