



News from Democratic NYS Senator Eric Adams

*Representing the 20th Senatorial District
Brooklyn, New York*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

Senator Adams' District Office: (718) 284-4700

Senator Monserrate's District Office: (718) 205-3881

MEDIA ADVISORY

NYS SENATOR ERIC ADAMS, CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE HOMELAND SECURITY COMMITTEE, AND SENATOR HIRAM MONSERRATE CALL ON MAYOR MICHAEL BLOOMBERG TO CLOSE NYC PUBLIC SCHOOLS ON THURSDAY AND FRIDAY OF THIS WEEK TO STEM THE POSSIBLE SPREAD OF THE H1N1 VIRUS.

NYS Senators Eric Adams and Hiram Monserrate call on Mayor Michael Bloomberg to close NYC public schools on Thursday, May 21 and Friday, May 22 as a precautionary measure against the spread of the H1N1 virus that has caused such great concern over the past month. This creates a 5-day window to insure a safe environment and inform parents about prevention techniques, both designed to stem any possible spread of the H1N1 virus.

Senator Adams' statement: *"After careful consideration of the dangerous health situation the H1N1 virus has created, following weeks of sporadic school closings and continued confirmed cases, Senator Monserrate and I are calling on NYC Mayor Michael Bloomberg to close the city's schools for the rest of this week. This action is a safeguard to reduce the possibility of any further spread of this virus that has already claimed lives. It is a precautionary preventive step to stem the spread of H1N1.*

"As Chairman of the Veterans, Homeland Security and Military Affairs Committee, the safety of our families from enemies seen and unseen is a top priority. In this case, the well being of our children must be the top priority. Erring on the side of caution is a virtue when it comes to the health of our most vulnerable residents. Although the closing of schools is never to be done casually, action that leads to fewer health concerns now will be measured against a less desirable outcome if we don't act and the circumstances go the other way.

"Senator Monserrate's 13th Senatorial District has already endured three school closings and recently confirmed a fourth H1N1 case.

"Closing the schools on Thursday, May 21 and Friday, May 22 will provide the city with a 5-day window (including Monday's Memorial Day holiday weekend) to devise a clear disinfecting procedure in the schools and put together an information campaign for parents, informing them that their personal observation of their kids' health, as well as the use of the common thermometer, is the first line of defense against the spread of this virus."

###