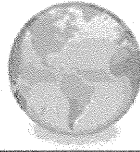

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AP Associated Press

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US no longer advising schools close for swine flu

By MIKE STOBBE
AP Medical Writer

U.S. health officials are no longer recommending that schools close because of swine flu.

The government last week advised schools to shut down for about two weeks if there were suspected cases of swine flu. Hundreds of schools around the country have followed that guidance and closed schools.

Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius said Tuesday that the swine flu virus had turned out to be milder than initially feared and the government decided to change its advice. Sebelius says parents should still make sure to keep sick children at home. Those with flulike symptoms should stay home for seven days.

The number of confirmed swine flu cases in the United States is now over 400, with hundreds more probable cases.

THIS IS A BREAKING NEWS UPDATE. Check back soon for further information. AP's earlier story is below.

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