



## PRESS RELEASE

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### ***HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY PREPARED IN FACE OF THE FIRST A H1N1 CASE ON THE ISLAND***

May 25, 2009 - San Juan, Puerto Rico — As a result of the announcement issued by, Governor Luis Fortuño, regarding the first case of the H1N1 in the Island, Jaime López Díaz, Executive Director of the Puerto Rico Tourism Company, stated that since the first global swine flu report was issued, the tourism industry in Puerto Rico is prepared to confront any suspected case of the virus in the hotels and inns throughout the Island.

“During the past weeks the PRTC and our industry partners, the Puerto Rico Hotel & Tourism Association (PRHTA) and the Puerto Rico Convention Bureau (PRCB) on a strategy to handle any suspicious case and the possibility of a confirmed H1N1 case in the Island”, affirmed Jaime López Díaz, Executive Director of the PRTC Company. “As part of our preventive measures, the plan was sent to all the hotels throughout the Island. It explains in detail the steps to be taken and how to handle a situation where a guest shows symptoms similar to the H1N1 infection.” explained the Executive.

At the same time, a public relations campaign and global monitoring of the PRTC and hospitality industry partners has been set to keep our national and international markets, travel wholesalers, and travel agents with updated information on the status of this isolated case reported in the Island, and that Puerto Rico complies with the highest health standards in the Caribbean and Latin America.

“The safety and well-being of all our visitors and industry employees is a priority for us. That is why ever since the first report of the virus occurred at a global level, we took the necessary measures to be prepared in the event of a possible confirmation of a H1N1 case in the Island and how to handle the situation in a responsible and effective manner” explained López Díaz. “At present, we are focused on offering our guests the quality service we are known for. We stress the importance of being well informed with updated information, in order to be able to respond to any questions travelers may have and let them know that we are a safe and prepared travel destination”, explained the Executive Director.

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### **About the Puerto Rico Tourism Company (PRTC)**

The Puerto Rico Tourism Company (PRTC), founded in 1970, is a public corporation responsible for stimulating, promoting and regulating the development of the tourism industry. It markets Puerto Rico as a tourism destination through advertising, public relations and promotional activities; promotes tourism among local residents; provides visitor orientation and technical assistance to investors; evaluates tourism facilities and establishes standards of quality; and regulates and oversees gaming operations. PRTC has offices and representatives in the U.S. Mainland, Canada, Europe and Latin America.