



HEALTH SERVICES

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May 5, 2009

Dear Amphitheater Parents and Guardians,

The following information provides updated interim guidance for schools and childcare facilities regarding the prevention of the spread of influenza A (H1N1) virus.

At this time, CDC recommends the primary means to reduce spread of influenza in schools focus on early identification of ill students and staff, staying home when ill, and good cough and hand hygiene etiquette. Decisions about school closure should be at the discretion of local authorities based on local considerations, including public concern and the impact of school absenteeism and staffing shortages.

Recommendations:

- ❖ School closure is not advised for a suspected or confirmed case of novel influenza A (H1N1) and, in general, is not advised unless there is a magnitude of faculty or student absenteeism that interferes with the school's ability to function.
- ❖ Schools that were closed based on previous interim CDC guidance related to this outbreak may reopen.
- ❖ Students, faculty and staff with influenza-like illness (fever with a cough or sore throat) should stay home and not attend school or go into the community except to seek medical care for at least 7 days even if symptoms resolve sooner.
- ❖ Students, faculty and staff who are still sick 7 days after they become ill should continue to stay home from school until at least 24 hours after symptoms have resolved.
- ❖ Students, faculty and staff who appear to have an influenza-like illness at arrival or become ill during the school day should be isolated promptly in a room separate from other students and sent home.
- ❖ Parents and guardians should monitor their school-aged children, and faculty and staff should self-monitor every morning for symptoms of influenza-like illness.
- ❖ Ill students should not attend alternative child care or congregate in settings other than school.
- ❖ School administrators should communicate regularly with local public health officials to obtain guidance about reporting of influenza-like illnesses in the school.
- ❖ Schools can help serve as a focus for educational activities aimed at promoting ways to reduce the spread of influenza, including hand hygiene and cough etiquette.
- ❖ Students, faculty and staff should stringently follow sanitary measures to reduce the spread of influenza, including covering their nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing (or coughing or sneezing into their sleeve if a tissue isn't available), frequently washing hands with soap and water, or using hand sanitizer if hand washing with soap and water is not possible.

To see the complete update of the new guidance from CDC as of Tuesday, May 5, 2009, go to:

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/K-12-dismissc/.htm>.

Thank you for your continued efforts in helping to keep our students and community safe and healthy.

Sandi Wheeler RN, MSN
Director of Health Services