



50 South Main Street, West Hartford, CT 06107 Phone: (860) 561-6600

June 8, 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Last week I wrote to you informing you of a confirmed case of Novel H1N1 virus within our school community. As in most surrounding communities, we must assume that we will continue to receive information concerning additional cases of this flu.

Our district's plan for handling confirmed cases is based on recommendations from the Center for Disease Control, U. S. Department of Health and Human Services. The recommendations can be found at http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu/k12_dismissal.htm and www.ct.gov/dph and include the following:

- Students, faculty or staff with influenza-like illness (fever with a cough or sore throat) should stay home and not attend school or child care programs, 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 and child care programs until at least 24 hours after symptoms have resolved.
- Parents and guardians should monitor their school-aged children and faculty and staff should self-monitor every morning for symptoms of influenza-like illness

Because a student is a member of a family and other family members are active in the community, it is not useful to identify one school. Rather, every school will be on the alert that the H1N1 flu is here. We ask all parents to be vigilant and to follow the above guidelines, most importantly to keep their children home from school if there is any question of flu-like symptoms. We are also asking our staff to follow these recommendations.

As recommended by the Center for Disease Control, school closure or dismissal is not advised for a suspected or confirmed case of Novel H1N1 influenza and, in general, it is not advised unless there is a magnitude of student or faculty absenteeism that interferes with the school's ability to function.

We will continue to monitor for flu-like illness in the schools, keep you informed, and consult with our School Medical Advisor, Dr. Douglas MacGilpin, and our local Health Director, Steve Huleatt.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

David P. Sklarz
Superintendent of Schools