

May 20, 2009

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

As more cases of swine-origin influenza A H1N1 or influenza-like illness are identified, the

Massachusetts Department of Public Health (MDPH) is providing updated guidance for schools and child care settings. Guidance may continue to change in the upcoming weeks as the situation changes and as more information becomes available.

The school continues to take appropriate steps to limit the spread of illness. As per our Readiness and Emergency Management Plan, the school's goals are to (1) coordinate with the local and state officials, (2) coordinate with infectious disease surveillance systems for school closures and (3) maintain continuity in learning and teaching.

Help us keep our community safe by following the updated recommendations released today, from the Massachusetts Department of Health:

Prevention Measures for Parents/ Guardians:

Please emphasize with your child(ren) the importance of proper hand washing and cough etiquette in preventing the spread of diseases. Educational materials, posters, etc. are available on the MDPH website, [www.mass.gov/dph/swineflu](http://www.mass.gov/dph/swineflu).

Please assess all family members (and especially all school-age children) for symptoms of influenza before sending them to school. Flu may include fever plus cough, sore throat or runny nose. It may also include other symptoms, such as vomiting or diarrhea. A Flu Symptoms Checklist is on the DPH website at [www.mass.govdph/swineflu](http://www.mass.govdph/swineflu)

Students who appear ill with influenza-like illness will be promptly isolated and sent home. All such students must stay out of school for at least 7 days even if their symptoms resolve sooner. Students who are still sick at 7 days should continue to stay home from school until at least 24 hours after they have completely recovered.

Steps for parents if your child is home ill:

Call the school and speak with the NURSE at extension 360 or extension 361

Do not leave detailed messages on the attendance line about your child's illness.

If your child is absent and you do not speak with a nurse to clarify their illness, one of the school nurses will contact you to verify the nature of your child's illness.

Thank you for your ongoing assistance.

Mark Logan

Executive Director