

November 16, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I am writing to you today with an update on the H1N1/flu status of our school and some additional information regarding the cold and flu season in general. At this time, I'm happy to report that we continue to have high attendance rates and minimal absence due to flu like symptoms.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of our School Nurses who are constantly up to date on current information, trends, and recommendations from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Department of Public Health (DPH), we have been very proactive in our procedures.

Just a few important reminders to help us maintain our flu free environment:

- Remind children to wash hands frequently as this is the first line of defense
- Keep sick children at home - Any student who presents with a temperature will be sent home from the nurse's office. Flu symptoms can include: fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headaches, chills, fatigue, sometimes diarrhea, and vomiting. **It is important to note that not everyone with the flu will have a fever.
- Remember that students may not return to school until they have completed a fever free day (24 hours)

In addition to the guidelines regarding prevention, attendance, communication, and school closing that we sent out earlier this school year, we have continued to be proactive and monitor our school population.

Attendance: Attendance is being monitored on a daily basis. We have maintained a 93% attendance rate throughout the fall.

Consultations: The School Nurses consult with the school physician, Dr. Guiliani, as needed for guidance. They attend nurse leader meetings with the Department of Public Health (DPH). In addition, they met with the Chief Medical Officer for the MA. Department of Public Health (MDPH) during the School Nurse Organization meeting.

Communication: The school website is updated with the latest information. Cathy Alix, School Nurse, attended the last PIE meeting to distribute updates. The nurses speak at staff meetings to talk about symptoms and the teachers' role in ensuring the health and well-being of our students.

For further information on the H1N1 and current updates please visit the school website www.foxboroughrcs.org. You are always welcome to contact either of the school nurses via e-mail if you have specific questions.

Our goal continues to be that no one in our community is adversely affected by this or any other health concern.

Sincerely,

Dawn Hall

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Director of Students and Families