

September 2, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Along with the excitement of a new school year may come a certain amount of anxiety about the H1N1 flu virus and how the school will be managing situations as they arise.

First and foremost please know that the School Nurses and Administration are knowledgeable of the Center for Disease Control (CDC) regulations and keeping in contact with the Department of Public Health and public schools to plan for the flu season and to help reduce the spread of H1N1 virus in our school community.

Secondly, we will follow guidelines set out by the Department of Public Health (DPH) and the CDC. The school will continue to adhere to the following:

Prevention: Faculty will promote proper cough etiquette and hand washing techniques. Posters that provide instruction on these topics are displayed throughout the building. Furthermore, alcohol-free hand sanitizers are placed strategically around the school. Sometimes the simple things have the biggest impact.

Attendance: Due to the fact that the influenza virus is passed easily between people, it is important to recognize “flu-like symptoms” which include a fever and a cough or a sore throat. If your son/daughter exhibits both of the symptoms, you are required to keep your child at home for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever, or signs of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medicines. They should stay home even if they are using antiviral drugs. There can be no exceptions. If your child comes to school and presents to the nurse with flu-like symptoms, your son/daughter will be dismissed home. While waiting for a parent to arrive, the student will remain in the nurse’s office away from other students and may be required to wear a surgical mask.

Communication: Throughout the year, the school nurse will continue to update parents with any new information using the school’s website and Edline. In addition, if at any time the CDC and/or state or local DPH feels other steps should be taken, the Administration at Foxborough Regional Charter School will comply with their recommendations.

School closing: Of importance to note is that if there is any significant outbreak at our school that requires a school closing, we are still required to ensure the mandated 180 school days. If we need to close school, we would need to be flexible and creative in rescheduling school days (extra hours in the school day, Saturday sessions, shortened vacation periods, etc.).

For further information on the N1H1 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.

We are excited for the school year that is upon us. Our wish is that no one in our community is affected by this or any other health concern.

Sincerely,

Dawn Hall
Director of Students and Families

Cathy Alix
School Nurse