



Manchester Public Schools

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October 26, 2009

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

Since the opening of school in September, Manchester schools have been conducting surveillance of Influenza Like Illnesses in the schools. On Friday, October 23, 2009, we began to see a slight increase in the number of students with flu like symptoms. Our partners in the Manchester Health Department and the Connecticut Department of Public Health tell us that this is likely to be the H1N1 virus, although we do not have laboratory confirmation at this time.

Parents need to be aware that students with temperatures over 100 degrees Fahrenheit, accompanied by sore throat, cough, headache and body aches should remain at home until the temperature has been normal (less than 99 degrees) for 24 hours without the aid of fever reducing medication. The student should also feel well enough to participate in school activities when they return to school. **Students who are ill and experiencing the following symptoms should see a health care provider immediately: fast breathing, or trouble breathing, bluish skin color, not drinking enough fluids, not waking up or not interacting appropriately, being so irritable a child does not want to be held, fever with a rash, of flu-like symptoms that improve but then return with a fever or worse cough.**

Please remind your child to wash their hands frequently and to use the hand sanitizers that have been provided to classrooms. It is also important to remind students to cough or sneeze into their elbow or shoulder. This will help prevent germs on hands and will decrease the spread of infection.

As always, we appreciate parents calling school attendance lines, reporting the symptoms their students are experiencing so we may continue surveillance.

For your information, we have attached an update from the Manchester Health Department about H1N1 vaccination planning for Manchester and Glastonbury. Regular updates on vaccination opportunities will be posted on the Manchester Health Department website.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kathleen M. Ouellette, Ed.D. Ms. Suzanne Valade Ms. Maryann Cherniak
Superintendent of Schools Coord. of School Health Manchester Director of Health

