

August 31, 2009

Dear Parents and School Staff:

This letter is to provide you with information about the status of the flu virus H1N1 and how this will affect us in the Epping School District.

Since April 2009 H1N1 has been designated a pandemic. There is no need for alarm as H1N1 has been reported by the NH Department of Health and Human Services (NHDHHS) to be no worse than any regular influenza.

The NHDHHS recommended strategies are to prevent people from becoming ill, to prevent spread between people, and to treat people who are ill. The following NHDHHS recommended interventions will be followed by the Epping School District.

1. Require respiratory etiquette which includes covering nose and mouth to cough or sneeze and discarding tissues after use.
2. Encourage frequent hand washing especially after coughing and sneezing.
3. Provide time to wash hands before eating, after using the restroom, and otherwise as needed.
4. Isolate ill persons immediately from others and send home.
5. Require symptomatic individuals to remain home for at least 24 hours after they are free of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications.
6. Continue to perform routine cleaning and regularly clean areas and items likely to have frequent hand contact.

Our goal is to keep school open and operate as usual. You can help us do that by following the above recommended interventions.

Schools have been designated as the first line of defense in preventing the spread of flu. The NHDHHS has reported that the influenza situation evolves by the day and as of today these are the recommendations. The school district will be working closely with the NH Department of Education and Health. If the situation changes, you will be notified immediately. Please find attached information provided by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. When reading this information please keep in mind that we are not in a severe situation at this time.

The health and well-being of our students and school staff are our top priority and we are doing everything possible to prevent the spread of influenza in our schools. Please feel free to contact the Superintendent's Office if you have any questions or concerns at 679-8003.

Sincerely,

Barbara D. Munsey

Barbara D. Munsey
Superintendent of Schools