

May 6, 2009

Parent, Guardians, and Staff:

On Tuesday the CDC and the Illinois Dept. of Public Health changed their guidance on school closures in relation to the outbreak of H1N1 Influenza.

School closure is not now advised for a suspected or confirmed case of this influenza unless a large percentage of the staff or student body would become ill.

Students, faculty, or staff with influenza-like illness (fever with a cough or sore throat) should stay home and not attend school or go into the community except to seek medical care for at least 7 days even if symptoms resolve sooner.

Students, faculty, and staff who are still sick 7 days after they become ill should continue to stay home from school until at least 24 hours after symptoms have resolved.

Students, faculty, and staff who appear to have an influenza-like illness at arrival or who become ill during the school day should be isolated promptly in a room separate from other students, if possible, and sent home.

Parents and guardians should monitor their school-aged children, and faculty and staff should self-monitor every morning for symptoms of influenza-like illness.

Students, faculty and staff should carefully follow sanitary measures to reduce the spread of influenza, including covering their nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing (or coughing or sneezing into their sleeve if a tissue isn't available), frequently washing hands with soap and water, or using hand sanitizer if hand washing with soap and water is not possible.

As you can see, the possibility our schools will be closed because of the influenza is now considerably reduced. We wanted to make sure that you were aware of this change.

Also, we hope that everyone will cooperate with the measures listed above to decrease the spread and severity of this virus if and when it comes into our area.

Jerry Meyer