

October 28, 2009



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Gregory J. Baracy, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Wayne-Westland Community School District is writing this letter for all of our parents due to concern about how schools are going to report confirmed H1N1 flu cases. We hope that the following information will help to clarify our position and guide you in your individual decision making.

Novel 2009 H1N1 Influenza A (Swine flu) was declared a pandemic (meaning it is present all over the world and spreads rapidly) by the World Health Organization in June of this year. Cases in this country were first reported in the spring of 2009 and have continued all summer with some areas of the country experiencing a heavier incidence of disease than others. Since late summer and early fall the rate of spread has increased. As of October 16, 2009 the map of the United States on the Center for Disease Control (CDC) website shows 41 states that are classified as having widespread H1N1 flu. More cases of H1N1 are being reported in Michigan every day and last week our state was classified as "widespread" by the CDC.

So what does this imply for our district? It means that we are not an exception. There are reported cases of H1N1 in every community and the number of cases will increase as it does every year during flu season. Knowing this the Wayne County Health Department advises us that it would be unproductive to send home letters every day. The flu is here! To protect our children and community members the best way possible, follow these guidelines:

- ✓ **Get immunized!** This is the most important thing that you can do for protection. **Free** walk-in clinics will be provided by the Wayne County Public Health Department (WCPHD) for mass delivery of H1N1 immunization (see attached). In addition all of the regular WCPHD immunization clinics will be offering H1N1 vaccine (also attached). Private care providers will have the vaccine soon, so you can stay in touch with those offices for their times. Priority "high risk" groups need to receive their vaccine first, but everyone will be able to get immunized as more supplies of the vaccine are made available. High risk groups are as follows:
 - Pregnant women
 - Anyone 6 months to 24 years of age
 - Anyone in close contact with children under 6 months
 - Anyone 24 to 64 years of age with underlying health conditions, such as asthma, diabetes, and immune suppression (talk with your primary care provide if you are not sure)
 - Emergency medical personal and health care workers



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✓ **Be alert to signs of flu-like illness:**

- Temperature over 100° F or 37.8° C
- Sore throat, headache, runny nose, dry cough, aches, tired, vomiting/diarrhea

✓ **Do not send sick children to school.**

✓ **Keep all children home for 24 hours after the fever is gone (without medication to lower).**

✓ **Wash your hands frequently and teach children to do the same.**

✓ **Cover coughs.**

✓ **Try to distance yourself from people with flu-like-illness.**

- Schools will be sending home all children with flu-like-illness.
- Children will be isolated as much as possible while waiting to go home.
- Stay home if you are sick, except to get medical care.

✓ **Seek Treatment** (antiviral medication needs to be given within the first 48 hours of H1N1 flu to be the most effective) or medical advice for anyone sick with flu-like-illness who falls into a high risk group for complications (pregnant, under 6 months of age, 6 months to 4 years old, over 4 with an underlying health condition).

✓ **Seek Immediate Help** if any flu-like-illness seems to get better and then becomes worse again or any time there is difficulty with breathing or staying hydrated. If in doubt, call your medical provider!

Wayne-Westland Community School District will continue to do our part during the school day to keep children healthy by following the CDC and WCPHD guidelines for our current rates of infection and severity of cases.

- Cleaning surfaces that are touched frequently by many people
- Allowing time to wash hands with soap & water
- Teaching cough etiquette
- Providing hand sanitizer when soap & water are not available
- Sending sick children home

If further action is required, you will be notified. Until that time, please view this letter as an up-date. We will continue to update you as needed, but will not send home letters based solely on isolated flu cases in our district. Please check our district website, wwcsd.net, for additional information. We thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Gregory J. Baracy, Ed.D.
Superintendent