

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS H1N1 Flu (Swine Flu)

August 24, 2009

How can I protect myself from the H1N1 flu?

Stay home when sick. Parents should monitor their child's health every morning. Students and staff with flu-like illness should stay 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.

Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette. Students and staff should practice basic health hygiene practices like the three Cs:

Clean - wash your hands frequently to prevent the spread of germs.

Cover - your cough or sneeze with your elbow or sleeve.

Contain - students and staff should stay home if they are sick.

How will the District monitor the number of students that are sick?

Attendance at each school will be tracked daily by the District Safety and Security Department. This is consistent with the local county health department daily reporting requirements. Each school reports attendance daily and the absence rates are monitored according to general absences, sick students, students identified as having flu symptoms, and students absent for precautionary reasons. This report will be reviewed by District Safety and sent to the county health departments daily by 4PM. As always, school nurses or staff members can report unusual circumstances as they may occur.

My child is ill. Should I send him or her to school?

No. Health department recommendations are that schools closely monitor any student or staff member for symptoms of flu. Symptoms include a fever at 100 degrees or higher, with a cough, nasal congestion, and/or a sore throat. Any student or staff member who has the symptoms of the flu will be excluded from school until they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of medication to reduce fever.

Parents are asked to help us monitor this situation closely. Please report if your student has flu like symptoms. If you have any questions, contact your school office.

How will I know if something happens?

District Safety and the Communications department will have a coordinated communication plan for staff and student families. The use of ConnectEd calls regarding H1N1 will be limited to an emergency or required basis. Information will be made available on the internet.

How will my child keep learning?

If an extended absence is expected your school will provide homework. In the unlikely event a school is closed, a plan is being developed to keep teachers teaching and students learning using a variety of accessible resources such as the internet, homework hotlines, ConnectEd messages to grade levels, etc...

Can I send hand sanitizer to school with my child?

The Kane County Regional Office of Education allows School District U-46 to use hand sanitizer in all schools and departments. Hand sanitizer use among students must be done only under the supervision of an adult, and bottles of hand sanitizer will be required to be stored in a secure area during times when an adult is not present.

Parents who decide to send a bottle of hand sanitizer for their child's classroom should ensure the bottle is given directly to a teacher or other adult in the school.

According to the Kane County Regional Officer of Education, only two bottles can be stored in each classroom as supervised by a teacher. Extra bottles will be stored under normal guidelines.

Are schools still using the Hand Sanitizer Program?

Yes. Washing hands with normal soap and water is best, but hand sanitizer can be used to supplement normal hand washing. Each school will have hand sanitizer supplies to be used during the lunch times. Hand sanitizer requires adult supervision.

How can I talk to my child about the H1N1 flu?

The National Association of Psychologists, National Association of School Nurses, and the national PTA have developed a resource entitled [Talking to Children About Swine Flu \(H1N1\)](#).

Is the District cleaning schools?

Yes. Commonly touched surfaces will be cleaned as normal and routine. If the situation worsens the cleaning plan will be adjusted accordingly to clean high touch areas, such as stairway railings, elevator buttons, and door handles with approved disinfectants in all schools.

Please note that according to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "extensive cleaning of schools by wiping down floors and walls prior to reopening is not necessary as it is unknown whether this would be helpful in decreasing the spread of influenza."

Are these "sick" buildings?

No. According to Centers for Disease Control, flu viruses can survive on surfaces (such as books and doorknobs) for up to 2-8 hours.

Where can I go for additional information?

U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>

Illinois Department of Public Health: www.idph.state.il.us

Kane County Health Department: <http://www.kanehealth.com/>

DuPage County Health Department: <http://www.dupagehealth.org/>

Cook County Health Department: <http://www.cookcountypublichealth.org/>

Contact:

Please contact your school if you are reporting absences.

Any other inquiries regarding H1N1 can be made to:

District U-46 Safety and Security Department

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