

September 18, 2009

Dear Parent(s):

As you may know, flu can be easily spread from person to person. Therefore, we are taking steps to reduce the spread of flu in the schools of New Lenox District 122. We want to keep the schools open to students and functioning in a normal manner during this flu season. But, we need your help to do this.

We are working closely with the Will County Health Department and the Regional Office of Education to monitor flu conditions and make decisions about the best steps to take concerning schools. We will keep you updated with new information as it becomes available.

For now, we are doing everything we can to keep our schools functioning as usual. Here are a few things you can do to help:

- **Teach your children to wash their hands often with soap and water** or an alcohol-based hand rub. You can set a good example by doing this yourself.
- **Teach your child to not share personal items** like drinks, food or unwashed utensils, and to cover their coughs and sneezes with tissues. Covering up their coughs or sneezes using the elbow, arm or sleeve instead of the hand when a tissue is unavailable is also acceptable.
- **Know the signs and symptoms of the flu.** Symptoms of the flu include fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit, 37.8 degrees Celsius or greater), cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and feeling very tired. Some people may also vomit or have diarrhea.
- **Keep sick children at home** for at least 24 hours after they no longer have fever or do not have signs of fever, without using fever-reducing drugs. Keeping children with a fever at home will reduce the number of people who may get infected.
- **Do not send children to school if they are sick.** Any children who are determined to be sick while at school will be sent home. (All teachers will be accommodating regarding make-up work.)

Currently, the District has implemented the following procedures regarding the flu:

- **Attendance monitoring** for the flu and formal reporting of absences to the Will County Health Department;
- Increased **cleaning** procedures;
- Presentation of **mandatory hand washing lessons** by each classroom teacher at all grade levels each trimester;
- **Designation of a small spot** in the office for students with fevers waiting for parent pick up;
- Provision of a minimum of **two antibacterial dispensers** and/or bottles in each classroom for students; and
- **Encouragement of all staff members to receive the vaccine** when available.

If the flu becomes more severe, we may take additional steps to prevent the spread such as:

- **Conducting active fever and flu symptom screening** of students and staff as they arrive at school;
- Making **changes to increase the space** between people such as moving desks farther apart and postponing class trips, and
- **Dismissing students from school for at least 7 days** if they become sick.

For more information, see the attached flyers, and visit www.flu.gov, or call 1-800-CDC-INFO (1-800-232-4636) for the most current information about the flu. For more information about the flu in our community and what our school is doing visit the District website at www.nlsd122.org. We will notify you of any additional changes to our school's strategy to prevent the spread of the flu.

Sincerely,



Peggy Manville, Ed.D.
Associate Superintendent