

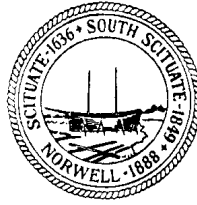
NORWELL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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OFFICE OF STUDENT SERVICES

October 27, 2009

Parents/Guardians:

This letter is to inform you that we have had a number of students and staff out sick with seasonal influenza and influenza-like symptoms (high fever with a cough and/or sore throat) in Norwell Public Schools. We have also received reports of some confirmed Type A influenza cases which, we are told, may or may not be H1N1. We suspect that, given reports from surrounding communities, more flu cases are to follow. We will not continue to inform you of each and every case of the influenza in Norwell, so please be advised that there is a likelihood of additional cases in the coming weeks. We continue to encourage you to follow the guidance from the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education and from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) who recommend that ***parents keep children with influenza-like symptoms at home until they are fever free without the use of fever reducing medications for at least 24 hours.*** Also, please periodically consult our website at <http://www.norwellschools.org/H1N1.html> for updates and useful information.

The district is working closely with the Norwell Board of Health and the Norwell Visiting Nurse Association to provide in-school H1N1 vaccination clinics as soon as vaccine becomes available. Current estimates put the vaccine arriving sometime in December. However, this could change depending on availability. We will keep you posted about these clinics as we learn more about the availability of the vaccine.

At this time all faculty and staff will continue to remind students to utilize universal precautions such as frequent hand washing and covering nose and mouth when sneezing. These precautions will assist in maintaining a safe and healthy school environment. In addition the following recommendations continue to be important in keeping all students safe and healthy:

- If children have symptoms, they should not be out in the community except to seek medical care.
- Please monitor your child each day before you send him or her to school. If any signs of illness are present it is recommended that they stay home.
- Help your child understand the importance of covering his or her nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing. Model this behavior for your child.
- Help your child understand the importance of washing hands with soap and water often. This is the best way of helping to decrease the chances of spreading disease. Model this behavior for your child.

In closing, please be assured that the health and safety of our students and staff is of the utmost importance and remains our highest priority. Should you have additional questions or concerns, we encourage you to ask your school nurse or your family doctor.

Sincerely,

James M. LaBillois
Director of Student Services