

Yes, CDS Has Plans in Place for Dealing with the Possibility of H1N1 Flu

With so much coverage in the press about the possibility of a “Swine” flu outbreak this fall, it’s certainly logical for our school families to wonder if CDS is doing anything to be prepared. The answer to that is yes!

1. We monitor the Center for Disease Control reports on school outbreaks every day. This is the definitive source for accurate information for alerts as well as effective steps to reduce risks for infection or the spread of illnesses.
2. We remind students and staff that the single most important step in prevention at school and everywhere they might be is cleanliness.
 - ✓ EVERYONE is urged to wash hands frequently and thoroughly.
 - ✓ Hand sanitizer is easily available and accessed often in every classroom and office.
 - ✓ We have shown students how to cough or sneeze into an elbow.
 - ✓ We remind students to keep their hands away from mouth and face,
 - ✓ We frequently clean surfaces and items that are more likely to have hand contact with disinfecting cleaning agents like Lysol and Clorox wipes.
3. Teachers and staff have been instructed to stay home when sick.
4. We keep an eye out for sick students and send them to the office for further evaluation.
5. If someone is sick, that student is isolated from others while we wait for a parent to arrive for pick-up. Students should not return to school for a *full 24 hours* after a fever breaks.
6. CDS has applied to be a site for administering H1N1 vaccinations when they become available. We will hear later if we are selected to be a site.
7. At this time the CDC recommends against schools closing in the event of reported cases of the H1N1 flu virus. We will follow that recommendation. Should it change, our faculty and staff will take advantage of our technological resources to provide study materials to students. We do not anticipate such a situation, but we are equipped to handle it.

Recently, a school in our area mistakenly sent letters to parents saying that four cases of H1N1 had been detected in their school. This information from parents proved to be totally false. The experience at that school is a good reminder for all of us to be very careful in making sure we have the facts from the medical experts and don’t jump to the wrong conclusion about “flu-like” symptoms, especially as the normal cold and flu season approaches.

We appreciate your cooperation in keeping your student home when they may be coming down with something. Please feel free to contact teachers for assignments that will keep the student from slipping behind in class while getting better.