



INDIAN PRAIRIE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Office of the Superintendent

August 28, 2009

Dear District 204 Parents/Guardians,

Our district is preparing for this year's flu season and the expected return of the H1N1 virus. We are following the guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and taking direction from the DuPage and Will County Health Departments to monitor flu conditions and ensure that our schools remain functioning in a normal manner this flu season.

The district's focus is on the following proactive measures to lower the risk of students and staff catching the flu:

- Students will be directed to wash their hands before they eat lunch.
- A video on respiratory etiquette will be shown to students.
- Hand sanitizers will soon be in all classrooms, lunchrooms, and main offices as a back-up to hand washing.
- Certified school nurses will communicate with staff about correct hand washing procedures and staff will then instruct students.
- Principals will include frequent messages in their morning announcements to remind students about the importance of hand washing and respiratory etiquette.
- Building cleaning procedures were reviewed to ensure the district is following all public health guidelines.

Although the district is taking the above steps, we need the help of our parent partners to assist us in our efforts. Please take a moment to remind your children to wash their hands and instruct them not to share personal items like drinks or food. Instruct them to cover up their cough or sneeze using their elbow, arm or sleeve instead of their hands. They also need to avoid touching their eyes, nose and mouth to prevent spreading germs. Health officials also recommend having your family receive a seasonal flu shot. Opportunities for the H1N1 flu shot will be dictated by the county health department.

Lastly and most importantly, if your child is ill, please keep him or her at home. A child must be fever free without taking fever-reducing medications for 24 hours before returning to school. The start of the year is always a good time to review childcare contingency plans should you need to keep your child home from school.

Thank you for your efforts to help us keep our students and staff healthy this school year. For more information, visit the links below or call 1-800-CDC-INFO.

Sincerely,
Kathy Birkett
Superintendent

P R E P A R I N G A L L S T U D E N T S T O S U C C E E D

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