

October 26, 2009

Dear Isaac Fox Staff Member,

As of today, we have our first confirmed case of H1N1 influenza here at Isaac Fox School. Please know that our health office is in daily contact with the Lake County Health Department, and we're monitoring and reporting the current flu-related absence trends in accordance with the Health Department policy.

As we've stated in many newsletters, the best way to reduce the spread of H1N1 or any other virus is to practice good hygiene. We encourage you to remind your children to wash their hands often, keep their hands away from their eyes, nose, and mouth, and cover coughs and sneezes with their sleeve or a tissue. We have provided hand sanitizer in every classroom and public area of the building to reinforce good hygiene habits.

We are also targeting the cleaning of the classrooms. All classrooms and common areas are cleaned thoroughly every evening. Extra measures are being taken this evening in the classroom of the student who was diagnosed with H1N1. All surfaces that are touchable are being disinfected, including the lower walls. A special vacuuming of the carpet will be done, too.

Every school in the district is experiencing increased absences with influenza-like illnesses. Some of our students are being reported as having Type A influenza. Lake County Health Department does not ask for cases of Type A influenza to be reported unless definitive H1N1 testing has been performed. However, they do acknowledge there is a ninety per cent possibility that a positive Type A influenza is, in fact, H1N1.

Currently our absentee rate is holding and no dramatic changes have been observed. Any significant changes in trends will be reported to parents electronically. Additionally, our website will now show daily absentee rates in each building along with absentee rates of those with flu-like symptoms at [http://www.lz95.org/health\\_dep/pip.html](http://www.lz95.org/health_dep/pip.html). We will be updating this information by 3:00 PM daily.

Dr. Egan will also be sending you a letter with some of this same information. Please read these over carefully. We appreciate your cooperation by accurately reporting symptoms, if your child is ill. Additionally, we ask that you keep your child home with influenza-like symptoms that may include fever, sore throat, cough, chills, vomiting, and diarrhea. Your child is to remain home until s/he is fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication. The virus is the most contagious in the earliest days of the illness. A doctor's note is not required for a student to return to school.

Please know that the health and well-being of our students is a top priority with District 95, and we will continue to do everything possible to keep you informed. Please continue to check the district website at <http://www.lz95.org> for the most current information. If you have any additional questions, please feel free to call me at 847-540-2783.

Sincerely,

Jill Brooks  
Principal  
Isaac Fox School

