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Seeking 21st century equity and excellence

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Hyde Park Central School District

DISEASE INTERVENTION and RESPONSE PLAN



- **What our district is doing now**
- **What our district will do if flu-type illness levels are above normal**
- **Frequently Asked Questions & Answers**
- **Tools for Schools: Website & Contact Information**

Fall 2009

Fall 2009

Dear Hyde Park Schools Community,

Please join us in partnership to prevent and manage sickness levels through awareness and action.

By being informed, alert, and using good common sense, each of us can contribute to a school environment that is as healthy as possible.

This brochure outlines what the school district is doing right now and what it will do should a "qualified threat" be confirmed in one or more schools.

District superintendents are communicating and collaborating together and with county health officials. We are taking their direction and advice in preparation for an escalation in flu-type illness.

Specifically, our district is taking a proactive and non-pharmaceutical approach to sickness prevention. Please read this brochure carefully. Call or e-mail your school administrator, nurse, or district office if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Carole A. Pickering
Superintendent of Schools

What our District is doing now...

FACILITIES & OPERATIONS:

- Daily cleaning will be done with certified disinfectant.
- Monitoring for adequate bathroom supplies; additional Purell, tissues and cleaning products ordered.
- Hand sanitizers ordered and installed in all common areas.
- Additional prevention training provided for custodians.
- CLEAN efforts in every school increased.

In the event of a qualified threat:

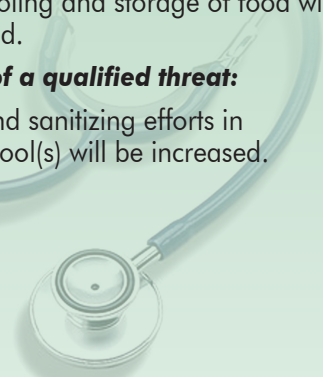
F & O will increase attention and disinfection to the area or school where a spike in illness has been identified. Extra custodial hours will be assigned for this purpose.

SCHOOL LUNCH & CAFETERIA:

- Standing operating procedures, including handwashing, use of gloves, personal hygiene, sanitizing equipment and surfaces, ensuring proper handling, preparing, cooking, cooling and storage of food will be reinforced.

In the event of a qualified threat:

Cleaning and sanitizing efforts in affected school(s) will be increased.



What our District is doing now...

TRANSPORTATION:

- All bus drivers have thirty paid minutes per day for cleaning and fueling busses.
- Additional efforts include weekly cleaning and disinfecting of seats.
- Signage regarding sneezing/coughing manners posted.
- Hand sanitizer supplied to each bus.
- Attention to daily cleaning increased.

In the event of a qualified threat:

A device called a "fogger" will be used to disinfect, sanitize and deodorize busses. Additional foggers and related supplies have been ordered.

ATHLETICS & PHYSICAL EDUCATION:

- Awareness through posters in athletic areas displayed.
- Hand sanitizers in gyms, locker rooms and sports bathrooms added.
- Communication and attention to good personal hygiene and sickness prevention in health and physical education classes and team sports from teachers and coaches increased.

In the event of a qualified threat:

Heavily used areas where increased sickness levels have been identified will receive intensive disinfecting and cleaning.

Protocols set forth by Section IX and the state athletic association regarding cancellation of games and events will be followed.

Frequently Asked Questions & Answers

Q: Are schools required to close if any students or staff are diagnosed with H1N1?

A: Any decision on school dismissal or closure is made at the county level by school and health officials. School closure is generally not being advised.

Q: How long should students or staff diagnosed with flu stay out of school?

A: Students or staff with flu-like illness symptoms and a fever of 100°F (37.8° C) should stay home until at least 24 hours after they are free of fever, or signs of fever, without the use of fever-reducing medication.

Q: What if someone comes to school and then begins to show flu-like symptoms?

A: Students and staff who appear to have flu-like illness when they come to school, or who become ill during the school day will be sent to the nurse for her evaluation and decision.

Q: What is the best way to be sure individuals who have the flu do not go to school?

A: Parents and guardians should monitor their school-aged children daily. Ill persons should stay home.

Q: If my child shows flu-like symptoms, should he or she still attend day care or other after-school activities?

A: Ill students should stay home. They should not attend alternative childcare, after-school activities, or other group activities.

EMERGENCY FLU-LIKE SYMPTOMS MAY INCLUDE:

- Fast breathing, trouble breathing
- Blush or gray skin color
- Not drinking fluids
- Not urinating or no tears when crying (signs of dehydration)
- Severe or persistent vomiting

Tools for Schools

PHONE NUMBERS:

- District Office: (845) 229-4000
- Hyde Park Elementary: (845) 229-4050
- Netherwood Elementary: (845) 229-4055
- North Park Elementary: (845) 229-4040
- Ralph R. Smith Elementary: (845) 229-4060
- Violet Avenue Elementary: (845) 486-4499
- Haviland Middle School: (845) 229-4030
- FD Roosevelt High School: (845) 229-4020
- New York State Department of Health (NYS DOH)
Novel H1N1 Hotline: (800) 808-1987

WEBSITES FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION:

Frequently updated information from NYS DOH:

http://www.health.state.ny.us/diseases/communicable/influenza/h1n1/information_for_schools.htm

Frequently updated information from the Center for Disease Control (CDC):

http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1/general_info.htm or www.flu.gov

NYS Education Department (NYSED) offers guidance, support and direction for: administrators, faculty, staff, and school community:

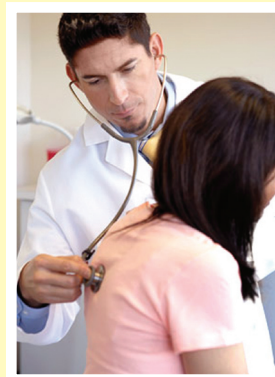
<http://usny.nysed.gov/swine-flu-info.html>

Links and contact information for your local (county) health department are available at:

<http://www.health.state.ny.us/nysdoh/lhu/map.htm>

English and Spanish educational materials are available at:

http://www.health.state.ny.us/diseases/communicable/influenza/pandemic/docs/pandemic_influenza_school_toolkit.pdf



School-wide Response



- A team of staff including health professionals, representing every school and facility/department has been established for monitoring and emergency response purposes.
- Superintendent Carole Pickering directly chairs this committee which met on September 16 to develop a coordinated plan.
- Nurses in each building will continue to report illness weekly to the county and state health departments. They are also in regular contact with other health professionals for guidance and direction.
- If a spike in flu-type illness is reported by our nurses to the superintendent, a Health Emergency Response Team (HERT) meeting will be called immediately. A factual analysis coupled with guidance from the county health department will determine our course of action.
- **Parents! Please keep school contact information updated; sign up for allnews at <http://www.hydeparkschools.org/contactus/Email>.**

HYDE PARK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
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Superintendent of Schools

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Assistant Superintendent
for Instruction & Personnel

Steven Throne
Interim Assistant Superintendent
for Pupil Services

September 18, 2009

School Opening Update & Sickness Prevention Plan

Dear Hyde Park Schools Community,

All our schools got off to a wonderful start last week. More than 4,000 students were received by well-prepared staff in very clean schools. Restoration, building upgrades and improvements will continue throughout the fall season. Security cameras have been installed and will soon be fully operational. Our new busses and vehicles are also in full service, while instructional tools, textbooks and supplies are in the hands of teachers and students.

Now it is time to plan for the possibility that seasonal flu and novel H1N1 (swine flu) cases may appear in our district and our region. Therefore, Dutchess County superintendents and Health Commissioner Dr. Michael Caldwell are developing and coordinating plans for region-wide prevention and response to a possible outbreak. Specifically in Hyde Park, we have already begun efforts to prevent disease through intensive education and monitoring building cleanliness, both of which will be developed and detailed shortly.

On Wednesday, September 16, I met with administrators and key district health professionals to discuss a prevention and response plan with specific responsibilities assigned to individuals. On Monday, September 28, at Superintendent's Conference Day, all staff will be informed of the plans which will then be shared with families. (Please see my presentation, attached.)

In the meantime, superintendents have been advised that good personal hygiene and common sense are the very best prevention measures. Specifically, hand washing and managing sneezing and coughing with simple manners will be the most helpful.

If you have flu like symptoms, including a fever of 100° or higher, please stay home or keep your child home until the fever has subsided for 24 hours without fever reducing medication.

With a comprehensive prevention and response plan in partnership with families, we will be better prepared to handle whatever type and degree of illness our district and community may experience.

Thank you and may each of you have a wonderful, healthy 2009-10 school year!

Sincerely,

Carole A. Pickering

Carole A. Pickering
Superintendent of Schools

C: Hyde Park Board of Education

Seeking 21st Century Equity & Excellence!



Hyde Park Central School District

Presentation to Staff on Districtwide Sickness Prevention

September 28, 2009
Carole A. Pickering,
Superintendent of Schools



District-wide goals

In partnership with parents, staff, students and the wider health community the HPCSD **will**:

- Take a proactive and non-pharmaceutical approach to sickness prevention, including types of flu.
 - Refer to superintendent's letter of 9/18/09, sent to parents and staff.



and

- Develop a pamphlet for all families, outlining what the district is doing and will continue to do throughout the year.
 - The districtwide pamphlet will provide information and guidelines for parents, staff and students.
 - Approximate target date for completion of the pamphlet is October 15, 2009, followed by distribution.

What are we doing right now?

- What processes are being developed?
- What actions are occurring to prevent increases in illness beyond “normal levels?”



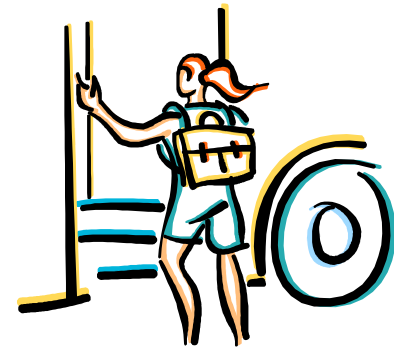
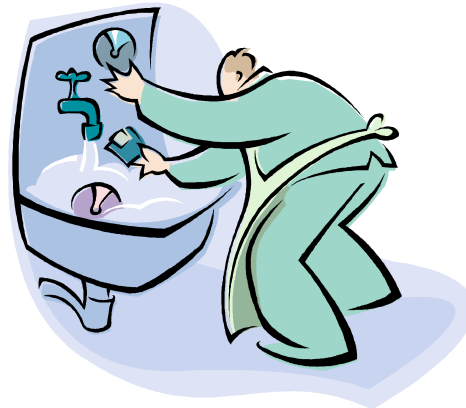
The superintendent is:

- Working with Dutchess County superintendents and health officials to establish protocols and lines of communication for information and counsel.



Facilities and Operations, Food Service and Transportation:

- Departments are stepping up prevention responses to anticipated increase in various strains of flu.



Disease Intervention & Response Team

- A districtwide group “DIRT” has been established with representation from each school. The team includes health professionals.



Monitoring:

- Health professionals will monitor sickness levels in their schools (they are already required to report the number and types of illness weekly to the county).



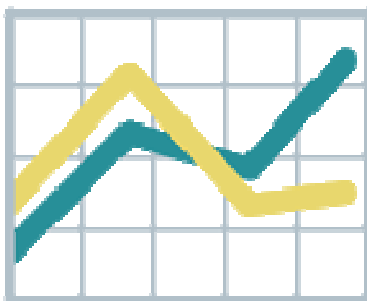
Communication:

- Health professionals will continue to communicate between and among themselves, guided by Eileen Andros, district-wide nursing coordinator.



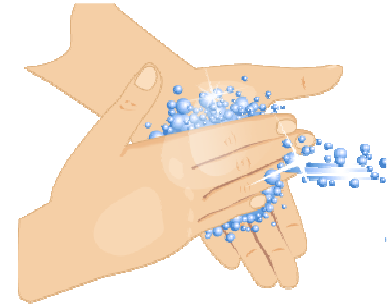
Illness Levels:

- If a “spike” in the number of illnesses is detected in a specific school(s), the superintendent will call an emergency “DIRT” meeting to analyze the facts and determine the appropriate response(s) to the particular school and situation.





In the meantime:



- **Common Sense in Common Places!**
 - Wash hands frequently
 - Cover mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, preferably with tissues
 - Let custodians know if bathrooms lack soap or paper towels.
 - Remind students of CLEAN procedures and manners in preventing the spread of germs.

If you are sick:

- Stay home!
- Don't come back until you are completely well (again, common sense).
- Do not tie rewards to attendance for this year.





When illness appears:

- Stay calm and rational
- Report factual data
- Keep your assessment of a situation and discussions with others as accurate as possible.
- Don't generalize specifics.

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide, consisting of two overlapping semi-circles. The top one is a dark teal color, and the bottom one is a lighter teal color.

Participate

in our partnership
for prevention!





Questions or Comments?



Hyde Park Central School District

Name: _____ Date: _____

Your child is being sent home from school today.
He/She has the following symptoms:

- _____ Fever of _____
- _____ Cough
- _____ Sore Throat
- _____ Vomiting
- _____ Diarrhea

He/She also had these signs of illness:

- _____ Skin rash
- _____ Body aches
- _____ Increased fatigue
- _____ Decreased appetite
- _____ Pale appearance
- _____ Glassy eyes, dark circles
- _____ Lack of energy

Your child should stay home and not go into the community. He/She should stay home until they no longer feel sick and have been fever free (less than 100 degrees) for 24 hours without using a fever-reducing medication.

Watch for warning signs that need urgent medical attention which include difficulty breathing, chest pain, appearing confused, becoming very ill quickly or becoming unconscious.

If he/she is seen by their physician, please share this information with the school nurse upon their return to school.

For more information:

Visit www.flu.gov

Contact CDC 24 hours/every day at 1(800)CDC-INFO