

Dear Parent or Caregiver,

H1N1 Swine Flu appears to account for about 80% of all cases of influenza-like-illnesses (ILI). Testing is now limited to those who are extremely ill; therefore, we do not always have laboratory confirmation of H1N1 in individuals with ILI, though we know they likely have it. Accordingly, we have increased our efforts to prevent the spread of the virus by strictly adhering to federal, state, and local guidelines for exclusion of students with ILI.

Your child has been seen by the school nurse and is experiencing flu-like symptoms; therefore we are requiring your child to remain out of school for seven days or until he/she is fever and symptom free for at least 24 hours, whichever is longer. Your child *may* be allowed to return to school early if you can provide a doctor's note that your child has been diagnosed with another illness, and your child is no longer contagious.

If you have concerns about homework assignments or other class work we will work with your child's teacher to provide assistance in making up the lost time. If your child's exclusion period occurs during final examinations, please contact your school counselor to discuss options. If your child is too ill to take final examinations, your child will be able to sign up for August review class and/or the August administration of the exam. If your child is well, but the seven day exclusion period is in effect, please contact your school counselor to discuss alternatives, such as special times or locations of exams. Children who are within their exclusion period, but well enough to take exams, will be asked to wear a surgical mask while in the school building, will be allowed to walk in the hallways when other students are not present, and will be assigned to a single room with a proctor who will be wearing a protective mask. While I understand the strain exclusion may put on your family, I appreciate your understanding and willingness to work with the District to help prevent the spread of this illness.

Sincerely,

Dr. Pamela Kissel  
Superintendent of Schools