

To Royal Oak Schools Staff, Students and Families:

Thank you for your continued efforts to address prevention of infection (e.g. H1N1 Influenza) and other communicable disease issues. Since cases of H1N1 Influenza continue to be reported nationally and locally, we need to continue to take precautions for prevention of this flu and the spread of other communicable viruses in our schools. The Center for Prevention Control (CDC) emphasizes that the best measures to prevent the spread of H1N1 and all seasonal influenzas are the same. The CDC Recommended Responses to an influenza outbreak for the 2009-10 school year are:

- **Staff and students should stay at home when sick**--Those with flu-like illness should stay home for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever, or signs of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medicines. They should stay home even if they are using antiviral drugs. For more information, go to:

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/exclusion.htm>

- **Separate ill students and staff**--Students and staff who appear to have flu-like illness should be sent to a room separate from others until they can be sent home.
- **Promote proper hand washing and cough/sneeze practices**-- The new recommendations emphasize the importance of the basic foundations of influenza prevention: wash hands frequently with soap and water when possible, and cover noses and mouths with a tissue when coughing or sneezing (or a shirt sleeve or elbow if no tissue is available).
- **Routine cleaning**--Royal Oak Schools staff routinely clean areas that students and staff touch often with the cleaners they typically use. Special cleaning with bleach and other non-detergent-based cleaners is not necessary, according to the CDC.
- **Early treatment of high-risk students and staff**--People at high risk for influenza complications who become ill with influenza-like illness should speak with their health care provider as soon as possible. Early treatment with antiviral medications is very important for people at high risk because it can prevent hospitalizations and deaths. People at high risk include those who are pregnant, have asthma or diabetes, have compromised immune systems, or have neuromuscular diseases.
- **Consideration of selective school dismissal**--Parents should make contingency plans should their students become sick at school or need to stay at home due to illness.

Please refer to the Oakland County Health Division (OCHD) website at www.oakgov.com/health for the following educational materials to assist with these efforts:

- H1N1 (Influenza) Fact Sheet
- Cleaning and Disinfecting Fact Sheet
- A *Clean School is a Healthier School* poster
- Hand washing Fact Sheet and poster

To remain consistent with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines, Royal Oak Schools will follow the direction of the Oakland County Health Division when responding to H1N1 influenza cases in our schools:

- School closures are **not recommended** for one or more positive cases of H1N1 Influenza. This is due to the fact that children will still have interactions with each other as well as other people in the community who may be shedding flu viruses even if they don't have symptoms. In addition, there is a benefit to children receiving daily uniform communication from our educators reinforcing how to reduce the spread of viruses through hand hygiene and cough/sneeze etiquette.
- The Oakland County Health Division does not require parent notification of H1N1 Influenza. In the event that School and District administration choose to inform parents of a confirmed case, we will include information regarding the prevention measures identified above.
- Keep suspect or confirmed cases of any Influenza out of school for 24 hours after the last symptoms resolve.
- Oakland County Health Division will notify the school principal when an H1N1 case is confirmed in their school after the parent has been notified. All Royal Oak Schools will continue to report all communicable disease, including H1N1 Influenza, to Oakland County Health Division's Communicable Disease Unit through our traditional reporting method.

The School District works collaboratively with the Oakland County Health Division and other state and local responders designing and updating contingency emergency planning, including the use of our facilities in the event of a large scale emergency. All Royal Oak Schools have emergency plans and are required to update those plans minimally, on an annual basis, and after each emergency management practice or drill. To this end, please ensure that you do the following:

- Update your student's emergency contact information whenever a change occurs at www.royaloakschools.com and follow the link to *Parent Web* in the For Parents Menu.
- Consider ways to promote and model good hygiene for your student.
- Consider alternative arrangements for your student when he/she is sick at home, such as electronic communication with the teacher/school and homework updates via the classroom website.

Again, thank you for your continued efforts to promote a safe and healthy school environment.

Cheryl Goodgine
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