



CENTER GROVE COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORPORATION

4800 WEST STONES CROSSING ROAD
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Dear Parents and Staff,

As a community, it is safe to assume the H1N1 virus is in our schools, churches, and shopping centers. We have been told that many doctors are no longer testing for the virus and assume if the symptoms are present, then it is most likely the H1N1 virus. Since the beginning of school, our custodians and bus drivers have been taking precautions to clean common areas with a disinfectant known to kill the virus. We continue those preventative steps daily.

Parents are not required to notify the school corporation if their student has been diagnosed with the virus and we are not required to report each occurrence of the virus to the Johnson County Health Department. The reporting guidelines for the H1N1 virus have changed since the emergence of the novel H1N1 virus in April, 2009. Initially, as in other contagious illnesses, we had to report each confirmed case of H1N1 in the school system. This information allowed the Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) to track the spread of the virus throughout the state. Since the H1N1 virus is so prevalent through the community as well as the nation, reporting of individual cases is no longer necessary. Last week we had two parents report to the school corporation that their children had been diagnosed with the H1N1 virus.

We are working closely with the Johnson County Health Department and all schools to monitor flu conditions. Currently, we are not seeing a high rate of absenteeism in any of our buildings. We are taking the needed precautions at schools with extra cleaning and repeated education about proper ways to prevent the spread of any germs.

If you would help with the following steps, they will help prevent the spread of any virus, or germs:

- If your child is running a fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit or more), has a cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches and fatigue, we are asking that you keep them home until they are fever free for two days without fever-reducing medicine. Even if you child feels better sooner, we want to make sure symptoms are gone and he/she is no longer contagious
- Please teach your children to wash their hands often with soap and water. They should wash for at least thirty (30) seconds
- Talk to your children about not sharing personal items like drinks, food, or unwashed utensils and to cover their coughs and sneezes with their elbows, not their hands
- Know the signs and symptoms of the flu. Symptoms of the flu include fever (100° F), cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and feeling very tired. Some people may also vomit or have diarrhea.
- Get your family vaccinated for the seasonal flu and the 2009 H1N1 as soon as the vaccine becomes available.

Please refer to these websites for more information:

- o Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: www.cdc.gov/H1N1FLU
- o Indiana State Department of Health - www.in.gov/flu
- o H1N1 Flu: A Guide for Parents: http://www.in.gov/flu/files/pan_flu_brochure.pdf

Your child's safety and wellness is our top priority. If you have further questions, please feel free to contact our Health Services Coordinator, Carla Slauter at 885-8800, or me at 881-9326.

Sincerely,


William K. Long, Ed.D.
Assistant Superintendent

DR. STEVE STEPHANOFF
SUPERINTENDENT

DR. JANET BOYLE
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

DR. WILLIAM LONG
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