



Cromwell Public Schools

"Placing Students First"

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Dear Families:

As you are already aware, the H1N1 virus is currently impacting some school districts in our immediate geographic area.

Student absences are many times called in as "flu-like symptoms." Because not all physicians send nasal swabs from patients to the state laboratory for testing, we cannot be sure how many of the absences are attributed to H1N1, seasonal flu or another virus. Therefore, we can only assume that it is likely that the Cromwell Public Schools also have some children who are ill due to H1N1.

Given that we cannot distinguish these absences between H1N1 and other illnesses, I am asking that in the event you have a sick child who has confirmed H1N1 that you notify the school nurse immediately. We would also appreciate families calling school attendance lines and reporting the symptoms their students are experiencing so we may continue surveillance. Just a reminder: students with temperatures over 100 degrees, accompanied by sore throat, cough, headache and/or body aches, should remain home until they are fever free for 24 hours **without the use of fever reducing medicine such as Tylenol, Motrin, etc.** Finally, we are asking that families have a plan in place in order to pick up their child in a timely manner if the school nurse calls regarding illness.

Know that the district will continue to monitor daily both student and staff attendance. We will also continue to provide the best educational program possible for your children until such time as student and staff absences prevent us from doing so.

Thank you for your patience as we work to keep you informed about the impact the H1N1 virus may have in our schools.

Sincerely,

Dr. Matt A. Bisceglia, Superintendent of Schools

Mrs. Pam Grande, School Nurse Coordinator