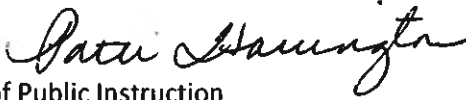


UTAH STATE OFFICE OF EDUCATION

Leadership...Service...Accountability

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To: Superintendents, Charter Directors, Student Services Directors and Principals

From: Patti Harrington, Ed.D. 
State Superintendent of Public Instruction
Utah State Office of Education

David N. Sundwall, M.D. 
Executive Director
Utah Department of Health

Date: May 5, 2009

Subject: **H1N1 Influenza New CDC Guidance**

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has just issued new interim guidance for schools regarding the prevention of the spread of the H1N1 virus. The Utah Department of Health has requested that we send them on to you. In summary, the CDC's new recommendations are:

Recommendations

- School closure is not advised for a suspected or confirmed case of novel influenza A (H1N1), and in general, is not advised unless there is a magnitude of faculty or student absenteeism that interferes with the school's ability to function.
- Schools that were closed based on previous interim CDC guidance related to this outbreak may reopen.
- Students, faculty or staff with influenza-like illness (fever with a cough or sore throat) should stay home and not attend school or go into the community, except to seek medical care, for at least seven days, even if symptoms resolve sooner.
- Students, faculty and staff who are still sick seven days after they become ill should continue to stay home from school until at least 24 hours after symptoms have resolved.
- Students, faculty and staff who appear to have an influenza-like illness at arrival or become ill during the school day should be isolated promptly in a room separate from other students and sent home.
- Parents and guardians should monitor their school-aged children, and faculty and staff should self-monitor every morning for symptoms of influenza-like illness.
- Ill students should not attend alternative child care or congregate in settings other than school.
- School administrators should communicate regularly with local public health officials to obtain guidance about reporting of influenza-like illnesses in the school.
- Schools can help serve as a focus for educational activities aimed at promoting ways to reduce the spread of influenza, including hand hygiene and cough etiquette.

- Students, faculty and staff should stringently follow sanitary measures to reduce the spread of influenza, including covering their nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing (or coughing or sneezing into their sleeve if a tissue isn't available), frequently washing hands with soap and water, or using hand sanitizer if hand washing with soap and water is not possible.

In summary, schools no longer have to close if they have a suspected or actual case of the flu, and schools that had closed for flu-related reasons may now reopen. Sick students and staff with flu-like symptoms should stay home—or be sent home—for a minimum of seven days, and adults should continue to monitor children's health (and their own) for flu-like symptoms.

In response to the rapidly evolving situation, the CDC is issuing updated interim guidance daily. The full recommendations are found in the Guidance section of CDC's flu web site:
<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/guidance/>.

We appreciate your continuing attention to this important matter.