

Medway Public Schools School Nurse Health Services

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Nurse Leader**

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

There has been so much publicity regarding the H-1-N-1 virus that I waited to write to you because the information continues to change almost on a daily basis. The school district has been working since last spring when this virus first appeared to keep abreast of all the information and implement strategies to promote a healthy school environment. Some criteria have changed since last spring so I thought it best to review with everyone the state guidelines that we will be following as we go forward.

Surveillance and monitoring:

- Any student with a cough, sore throat and fever over 100.4F / 38C will be sent home from school.
- The student will be asked to wear a mask in the Health Office until they are dismissed from school.
- Students must be fever free without medication for twenty-four hours before returning to school.
- Everyone must be assessed by the nurse upon returning to school after having the above symptoms.
- If a student is absent for three consecutive days, the nurse in that building will be calling home to verify illness and review the above stated return to school criteria and guidelines.

Flu Vaccine Clinics:

- The Medway Board of Health has contracted with the Milford Visiting Nurse Association to conduct flu vaccine clinics at the schools. The state is asking for schools to conduct these clinics to relieve the burden in the pediatrician and primary care physician offices.
- Parents were asked to respond to a short survey to help us determine vaccine quantities needed so that we can have an adequate supply for the demand in the Medway community.
- This vaccine will be free of charge.
- The Milford Visiting Nurse Association will only be administering the “flu shot”. They will not be using the flu mist.
- There will be two evening clinics from 4 – 8pm at the Medway Middle School tentatively scheduled for the middle of November and December. The target

audience for these clinics are children in grade 4 and under so that a parent can be present while the child is immunized. Other individuals within the Medway community who meet the criteria will be invited to attend these evening clinics as well. These clinics are spaced a month apart because children in this age group will need two injections with 21 – 28 days separating each vaccine.

- A flu vaccine clinic will be scheduled at the Middle School as well as the High School during school hours.
- Parents will be sent home a cover letter explaining the process, a vaccine information sheet and a permission form for their child to receive the flu vaccine at school. The student can receive the flu vaccine during the evening clinics if they want a parent present.
- At this writing, the dates of the clinics are tentative due to availability of vaccine. The Milford VNA anticipates receiving a supply in the very near future.

I realize that this is a lot of information but never before in public health history have we had two influenza-like-illnesses circulating at the same time. We need to take all the precautions that we can to remain healthy. I encourage all of you to discuss with your pediatrician if this H-1-N-1 flu vaccine is appropriate for your child. There is a great deal of information on the following websites that you can refer to as well:

- www.flu.gov
- www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/parents

We continue to teach hand washing and cough etiquette in all the lower grades and have many signs posted in every school reminding all the students when to wash hands and to cough and sneeze correctly. There are hand sanitizers accessible in every school for all students, faculty and staff to use.

I hope that this is helpful to you and I will continue to share more information with you as it becomes available. The nurse in your child's school is available to answer any questions you may have. Please do not hesitate to contact me as well. May you and your family remain healthy.

Thank you

Sincerely,

Linda Corridan, RN