

Bayport-Blue Point Union Free School District

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November 9, 2009

Dear Parents,

In the last week, the Bayport-Blue Point Schools have seen a significant increase in the number of students with influenza-like illness. As we move into flu season, it is time the school district take some additional steps to further attempt to prevent the spread of H1N1 as well as the seasonal flu. The Center for Disease Control recommends the following procedures be implemented as the flu becomes more prevalent:

- School nurses will conduct active fever screenings for students and staff who exhibit any symptoms of influenza-like illness.
- We will begin to increase the space between students by moving desks farther apart.
- Postponing class trips whenever possible.
- Requiring parents to keep students home for at least seven (7) days if they become sick with influenza-like illness.

In addition to these CDC guidelines, students who are out sick and return to school will be screened by the nurse upon readmission to insure they are fever free. We are also strongly recommending that parents do the following:

- Create a plan for pickup and care of your child should they become sick in school.
- We are encouraging students and staff who are at risk to seek medical advice regarding attendance at schools with a high incidence of influenza-like illness.
- Keep sick children at home for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever or do not have signs of a fever, without using fever-reducing drugs. Keeping children with a fever at home will reduce the number of people who may become infected.

- Do not send children to school if they are sick. Any children who are determined to be sick while at school will be sent home. Parents should also keep their siblings home even if they do not exhibit symptoms of influenza-like illness.

Please continue to:

- Teach your children to wash their hands often. Washing with soap and hot water for at least 20 seconds is ideal (that's about as long as it takes to sing the "Happy Birthday" song twice).
- Teach your children the proper use of hand sanitizer. Gels, rubs, and hand wipes all work well, as long as they contain at least 60% alcohol. Hand wipes must be disposed of properly. Always read and follow label instructions when using a hand sanitizer.
- Teach your children to keep their hands away from their face and avoid touching their mouth, nose, or eyes.
- Teach your children to cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or by coughing into the inside of their elbow. Cough or sneeze into your sleeve—not your hands!
- Help your children to learn these healthy habits by setting a good example and always doing them yourself.

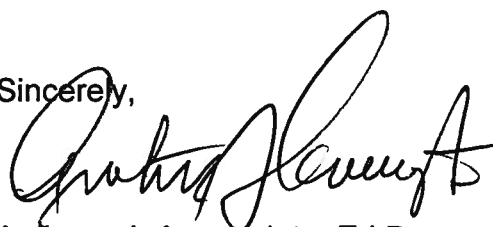
Should the number of sick students and staff continue to increase, the school district may begin to cancel social gatherings that require multiple classes to gather together, the suspension of interschool activities during the day, and cancelling evening activities. As a last resort, the Board of Education may consider closing schools for a short period of time.

If your child has been diagnosed with an influenza-like illness or H1N1, it is imperative that you contact your child's school and inform the nurse. We are working closely with the Suffolk County Health Department and the New York State Department of Health.

We are closely monitoring the situation as it develops. If the district must institute further CDC guidelines at a moment's notice, we will utilize the Connect-Ed system to convey information to parents.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our children and our schools healthy.

Sincerely,



Anthony J. Annunziato, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools