

10-9-09

Just like the flu itself, the news and rumors surrounding H1N1 is increasing with the onset of the fall weather.

As of today, the district has received **no laboratory confirmed reports** of a District 308 student or staff member who has contracted the H1N1 virus. This includes Homestead Elementary! District 308 typically does not send notes home to parents regarding viral illness (such as colds and flu). However, due to parent concerns, if a laboratory confirmed report of the H1N1 virus is received by district health officials, parents of students in the affected child's/staff member's classroom will be notified of the illness. The district will also continue its practice of sending home notes for bacterial illnesses that are typically treated with medications such as antibiotics (i.e. pink eye and strep throat).

Flu viruses are everywhere in the community – stores, libraries, and people's homes – so it is important that everyone remember to do their part to prevent the spread of illnesses. Health department officials recommend flu shots for those who qualify. In addition, the district is following the lead of health organizations throughout the country by encouraging our students to follow the three C's: Clean, Cover, and Contain.

Even with such precautions, the flu virus is an annual issue for many people. However, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (**CDC no longer recommends the closing of schools for probable or confirmed cases of H1N1**) as they did last spring, unless so many staff and/or students are out of school due to illness that the school cannot function properly.

District health officials worked closely with national, state, and local health organizations over the summer to develop a plan to keep our students and staff safe and healthy for the 2009-2010 school year. Information addressing this issue was sent home with all students in the district in September. In addition, the district held a community forum in conjunction with the Kendall County Health Department to address any questions or concerns about seasonal and H1N1 flu from the public. All this information, plus links to informational state and national Web sites is posted on the district Web site at [www.oswego308.org/family\\_information/healthservices.aspx](http://www.oswego308.org/family_information/healthservices.aspx)

District 308 follows the guidelines established by the CDC, the Illinois Department of Public Health, and the Kendall County Health Dept. If recommendations change in the future, District 308 will follow those recommendations and notify parents of the new guidelines.

At Homestead the staff continues to remind students to wash their hands, cough into their shoulder or inside arm area, and immediately dispose of used Kleenex or tissues. Our custodians clean commonly touched surfaces on a regular basis, including desktops, door handles, and drinking fountains. If your child is experiencing flu symptoms, please keep him/her home until all symptoms are gone for 24 hours without any type of fever

reducing medication. Our goal, as is yours, is to keep our students and staff healthy during this difficult flu season. If you have any questions regarding the district's policy regarding H1N1 please don't hesitate to call our nurse, Debi Rabick, or myself.

Have a wonderful week! And remember to take some time to read to or with your child every day and to have fun with math activities!