

Lockport City School District

130 Beattie Avenue, Lockport, New York 14094-5099
Mrs. Terry Ann Carbone, Superintendent

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November 5, 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian:

RE: H1N1 Update for November 5, 2009

The purpose of this letter is to update you on the status of H1N1 influenza activity in our community as well as any recent developments.

As you may be aware, we continue to have widespread influenza illness in Niagara County. We have had reports of illness in each of our buildings. Our school nurses continue to provide surveillance in the health office and are sending anyone home with fever (temperature greater than 100.0 F) and flu symptoms. Cooperation from parents/guardians is essential to continue to keep ill children home until they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever medicine. Cooperation of staff is essential to remain home if experiencing symptoms following the same criteria.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that certain groups receive the 2009 H1N1 influenza vaccine as it becomes available, including persons 6 months to 24 years of age. According to the Niagara County Health Department, the best place for children to receive the vaccination for H1N1 will be from his/her health care provider. However, health officials recognize that some children may be unable to receive the H1N1 vaccine from their health care provider. Therefore, the Lockport City School District is partnering with the Niagara County Health Department to provide access to vaccination and is in the planning phase to implement a Point of Dispensing Clinic sometime in January 2010. We have received notification that vaccination for H1N1 influenza is arriving in small quantities weekly to some local practices as well as the Niagara County Health Department. We encourage parents to contact their primary care physician as vaccine becomes available to schedule an appointment for their child.

In the interim primary prevention continues to be important. These include:

- Avoid close contact with people who are ill.
- Hand washing
- Respiratory etiquette (coughing/sneezing into a tissue or your sleeve)
- Proper disposal of tissues
- Avoid touching face, eyes, nose and mouth
- Use of hand sanitizer when soap and water is not available.
- Prompt contact with your physician should you or anyone in your family experiences symptoms.
- Stay home when ill. Do not report to school until fever free for 24 hours without the use of Tylenol or Motrin.
- Refrain from sharing personal items (forks, cups) and personal care items (toothbrushes, towels).
- Regular cleaning of common household surfaces.
- Children should avoid the use of any medicine containing aspirin. Tylenol (Acetaminophen) and Motrin (Ibuprofen) are acceptable to use.

Please continue to refer to our website at www.lockportschools.org for updated information on H1N1. The Niagara County Health Department influenza hotline (716) 278-1684.

Sincerely,

Terry Ann Carbone

Terry Ann Carbone, Superintendent
Lockport City School District

Barbara A. Surace

Barbara A. Surace, RN, MS, CPNP
Director of School Health Services

“Pride in Our Past; Faith in Our Future”

We believe: All people can learn. Schools create conditions for success: academically, socially, emotionally, physically and aesthetically. Teaching and learning is the shared responsibility of home, school and community. Our mission is to assure comprehensive learning for all so that each person will be a lifelong learner.