

WILLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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August 26, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians:

I welcome you and your children back to school. As always, the staff of Willington Public Schools is dedicated to ensure a safe and healthy school environment for all children, especially now as it pertains to the H1N1 influenza strain. I want to update and remind you about some important information related to this issue. We know that the most effective way to protect people from the flu and other illnesses is to keep sick people away from healthy people. So if your child is sick, you must keep your child home.

The current recommendations are as follows:

Check your child every morning before sending him or her to school.

If your child has both a fever (100° F or 37. 8° C) AND sore throat or cough, then you must keep your child home from school and child care until at least 24 hours after they are free of fever, or signs of fever, without the use of fever-reducing medications. Your child might have the flu. Other symptoms can include runny nose, body aches, vomiting, and diarrhea.

If your child has fever alone, OR, vomiting OR diarrhea, OR sore throat OR a new cough with no fever then you must keep your child home from school and child care until symptoms are gone for 24 hours.

If you don't have a thermometer, feel your child's forehead with your hand. If it is much warmer than usual, your child probably has a fever.

If your child comes to school with the symptoms of flu or if your child develops these symptoms when they get to school, your child will be sent home until they are fever free for 24 hours.

The above recommendations are subject to change and I urge you to stay informed by visiting the Connecticut Flu Watch website <http://www.ct.gov/ctfluwatch> or the Willington Public Schools' website <http://www.willingtonpublicschools.org/> for information.

As a reminder, consider what arrangements you would need to make to assure that your child is safe at home when he/she is sick. They should not be sent to another child care setting where they would be interacting with other people who are not sick.

The district through our school nurse offices will be monitoring for influenza-like illness in the schools and will consult with Robert Miller, Director of Health, Eastern Highlands Health District and Dr. Craig Elliott, our Medical Advisor, as needed to assure that we have the most accurate and timely advise regarding H1N1.

Thank you for your attention and if you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

David C. Harding