

Yale Public Schools

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October 16, 2009

Dear Yale Public Schools Parents,

I am writing to remind you that the H1N1 flu virus is still a national and local health issue, and the best preventive strategy for keeping H1N1 from becoming widespread is to follow the advice of the health care professionals who have simplified prevention into two basic practices:

1. Wash hands thoroughly as much as possible, especially when in public places.
2. Keep any person displaying flu-like symptoms from gathering in public; if children display flu-like symptoms, keep them home.

We have recently learned that a couple students in the district have been diagnosed with influenza. This serves as a reminder that we need to continue to practice the above steps to prevent any widespread outbreak of H1N1 or any other illness. We are working with the St. Clair County Health Department to address the H1N1 illness. Their recommendation at this time is to continue to operate the district and inform the parents of methods of prevention. We have secured many disinfectants and antiseptics to keep students and equipment as clean as possible. We also are disinfecting classrooms as much as possible.

The concern with H1N1 is much larger than just a school issue and we need to work together to keep our schools safe and healthy educational environments. There is more information available regarding H1N1 on the district's website www.yale.k12.mi.us and on the St. Clair County Health Department website www.stclaircounty.org/office/health.

We have recently been informed by the Health Department that H1N1 vaccination clinics are being scheduled in all county school districts, including clinics at Yale, Farrell-Emmett and Avoca Elementary schools soon. Dates will be posted on the Health Department website and the school website as soon as they have been confirmed according to vaccine availability. Packets with vaccine information and parental consent forms will be sent home with students prior to vaccination clinic dates. As we receive more information we will share it with you through our newsletters, website, Parent Connect and future letters home with students.

Our goal is to keep you informed as the situation progresses. Please feel free to call me, your child's principal, or the health department (810-987-5300) if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Frank Johnson
Superintendent

FJ/mep
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