

September 15, 2009

Dear Parents:

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has updated its guidance for early childhood education programs regarding measures that should be taken in response to the H1N1 influenza virus. Accordingly, Geneva has revised some of its guidelines.

The new guidelines state that a child should stay home at least 24 hours after s/he is symptom-free and fever-free from any influenza-like illness, without any fever-reducing medication. As you know, if a youngster is sick for more than three days, Geneva requires a written note signed by a physician or parent indicating the reason for the absence and that the child is no longer contagious. A copy of this form is attached.

While no one can predict how the seasonal or H1N1 flu will affect our school, we will continue to help reduce germs through more frequent cleaning of surfaces; increased hand washing and sneezing/coughing instruction; and optional temperature scanning, among other practices already in place.

Geneva is making a number of contingency plans to try to keep school open in the event that we experience a high number of staff absences. We know that you, too, will plan ahead and make your own contingency plans should you or your children become ill and need to stay home. We certainly want our community to be as healthy as possible, especially for our high-risk populations of pregnant moms and children under five years of age. We do not have a health room to care for those who are sick, so it is additionally important for families to have a plan to pick up children right away should they become ill at school.

Please notify the Office immediately with any new contact information, especially for any of your child's daily care providers. It is essential that we have accurate information to communicate important information about the flu and other school matters.

For more information from the CDC, please refer to www.cdc.gov. Currently, the CDC recommends:

- Getting the seasonal flu vaccine
- Staying home when sick, avoiding contact with others, and remaining home for at least 24 hours after being symptom-free
- Keeping children and staff with flu-like symptoms separated from others
- Promoting proper hand washing and cough/sneeze etiquette for all
- Performing routine cleaning
- Daily wellness monitoring of staff and students

Thank you for your continued support. We will keep you updated as we learn new information.

Very truly yours,

Suzanne Funk
Director

Attachment: Geneva Absence Form

DRAFT – Sussman (very well done) & Lemar (great) think OK.

September 15, 2009

Dear Parents:

Recently, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) published revised guidance for early childhood education programs regarding the H1N1 virus. It recommends action that should be taken now and other practices that should be implemented should we be notified that the flu is becoming more severe. As a result, Geneva is also revising some of its guidelines.

While no one is able to predict how the seasonal or the H1N1 influenza will affect our School, we will continue to implement additional measures to help reduce the spread of germs. These have included increasing cleaning of surfaces, teaching hand washing and sneezing/coughing etiquette, and taking optional temperature scans, among others.

The new guidelines state that a child should stay home at least 24 hours after they are symptom free and fever free from any influenza-like illness, without any fever-reducing medication. As you know, if a youngster is sick for more than 3 days, Geneva requires a written note signed by a doctor or a parent indicating the reason for the absence and that the child is no longer contagious to others. A copy of this form is attached.

Geneva is making a number of contingency plans to try to keep the School open in the event that we experience a high number of staff absences. We know that you, too, will plan ahead and make your own contingency plans should you or your children become ill and need to stay home for a 3-5 day period. We certainly want our School community to be as healthy as possible, especially for our high-risk populations of pregnant Moms and children under five years of age. Because we do not have a health room, we appreciate picking up sick children right away.

It is essential to have updated contact information from you should it be necessary to communicate important information about the influenza or other School matters. Thank you for notifying the Office with any new or changed numbers or addresses.

For more information from the CDC, please refer to the website at: www.cdc.gov. CDC Recommendations at this time include:

- Getting the seasonal flu vaccine
- Staying home when sick, avoid contact with others, and remain home for at least 24 hours after being symptom free
- Keeping children and staff with flu-like symptoms separated from others
- Promoting proper hand washing and cough/sneeze etiquette for all
- Performing routine cleaning
- Daily monitoring wellness of staff and students

Thank you for your continued support. We will keep you updated as we learn new information.

Very truly yours,

Suzanne Funk
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