



NORTH OAKLAND COMMUNITY CHARTER SCHOOL

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NOCCS H1N1 “Swine Flu” Action Plan & Community Letter

May 4, 2009

Dear NOCCS Community;

This document is to inform you of NOCCS’ action plan for dealing with the H1N1 “Swine Flu” virus.

First, we want to emphasize that thus far no NOCCS student has tested positive for the H1N1 virus. There are, however, a number of students who have been absent over the past few days. As such, we are working to stay in close contact with these families so that we can monitor their situation and take immediate action if needed.

The CDC recommends that, should we receive a **laboratory-confirmed** case of H1N1 that we must work closely with our county office of public health to make sound decisions about ensuring the health and well being of students, staff, and families. This includes, but is not limited to closing the school.

In order for us to work together as a community to ensure the health and safety of all, we ask everyone to adhere to the following action plan:

Families will:

- Remind students about using universal precautions to prevent the spread of illness, including:
 - Cover coughs or sneezes (throwing out tissues after use)
 - Frequent hand washing with soap and warm water (rinsing for at least 30 second)
 - Use of alcohol-based hand cleaners (if available)
 - Avoid contact with people who are sick
 - Avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth
- Carefully monitor students for flu-like symptoms
- If the child displays any flu symptoms:
 - Keep the child out of school
 - Take the child to the doctors, request testing for H1N1
 - Report symptoms to the school. The office staff has a list of questions they will ask you to report including:
 - a. Degree of fever (if any)
 - b. Cough
 - c. Sore Throat
 - d. Body Aches
 - e. Headache
 - f. Chills/Fatigue
 - g. Vomiting/Diarrhea
 - h. Family Illness
 - i. Travel. If so, location(s)
 - j. Exposure to laboratory confirmed cases of H1N1
 - k. Was child tested for H1N1. If so, any results
 - Keep the child out of school until s/he is completely well
 - Request independent study work

Teachers/Staff will:

- Remind students about using universal precautions to prevent the spread of illness, including:
 - Cover coughs or sneezes (throwing out tissues after use)
 - Frequent hand washing with soap and warm water (rinsing for at least 30 second)
 - Use of alcohol-based hand cleaners (if available)
 - Avoid contact with people who are sick
 - Avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth
- Implement frequent hand washing and/or alcohol-based hand cleaner routines
- Carefully monitor students for flu-like symptoms
- If the child displays any flu symptoms:
 - Bring the child to the office so that we can contact the family
 - Compile an independent study work contract for the child
- If the teacher/staff member displays any flu-like symptoms, they will:
 - Stay out of school
 - See a doctor, request testing for H1N1
 - Report symptoms to the school. The office staff has a list of questions they will ask you to report including:
 - Degree of fever (if any)
 - Cough
 - Sore Throat
 - Body Aches
 - Headache
 - Chills/Fatigue
 - Vomiting/Diarrhea
 - Family Illness
 - Travel. If so, location(s)
 - Exposure to laboratory confirmed cases of H1N1
 - Was individual was tested for H1N1. If so, any results
 - Keep out of school until s/he is completely well

The Administration/Office Staff will:

- Closely monitor websites of the County Health Department as well as the CDC
- Inform/contact families when a child displays flu-like symptoms
- Work with families and teachers to facilitate independent study contract
- Contact families of students who are out sick and record/log data related to H1N1 monitoring

If any student test results are positive, the school will:

- Work with the County Health Department with regard to the need for and length of school closure.

If closure is advised, the administration will:

- Compose all-school communication that notifies families and employees of the need for school closure. This will be sent via email and will be provided to each student in paper form.
- Call families that do not have e-mail access
- Utilize class roster to contact families as needed
- Communicate via the Yahoo group to keep families up to date in terms of important information about the school closure

If closure is advise, teachers will:

- Communicate with their classes via Yahoo groups and the web site regarding assignments that can be done at home while students are away from school
- Work from home via internet to stay in communication with the school regarding closure status

Clearly, this is a situation that we need to take seriously and to remain vigilant around. At the same time, it is important that we all work together to reduce anxiety for the students and community, and clearly communicate with one another.

If you have a question about this action plan or any other information regarding our response to the H1N1 virus, please feel free to contact me or our office staff via email or phone. If we do not have an immediate answer for you, we will work to get that information to you as quickly as we can.

In the meantime, take good care of yourselves and your children. Stay calm. And, keep your immune systems boosted with good food, plenty of sleep, and the practice of good hygiene.

With much care and respect.

c.

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