



October 26, 2009

District 95 reports first confirmed case of H1N1 influenza

District 95 has its first confirmed case of the H1N1 influenza, reported at Isaac Fox Elementary School. Our health offices are in daily contact with the Lake County Health Department and are monitoring and reporting the current flu-related absence trends in accordance with the Health Department policy. Each of our schools is currently experiencing increased absences with influenza-like illnesses. Some schools are reporting students absent with Type A influenza. Lake County Health Department does not ask for cases of Type A influenza to be reported unless definitive H1N1 testing has been performed. However, they do acknowledge there is a 90% possibility that a positive Type A influenza test is, in fact, H1N1.

Currently our absentee rate is holding and no dramatic changes have been observed. Any significant changes in trends will be reported to parents electronically. Additionally, our website will now show daily absentee rates in each building along with absentee rates of those with flu-like symptoms at http://www.lz95.org/health_dept/pip.htm. We will be updating this information by 3:00 p.m. daily.

The best way to reduce the spread of H1N1 or any other virus is to practice good hygiene, and we encourage you to remind your children to wash their hands often, keep their hands away from their eyes, nose, and mouth, and cover coughs and sneezes with their sleeve or a tissue.

The Lake Health Department is preparing to open H1N1 flu vaccination clinics at five sites for people in specific high priority target groups. Once the high priority populations have received the vaccine, the Health Department will provide the vaccine to the general public. In addition to the Health Department clinics, vaccinations will be available from a large number of community healthcare providers, pharmacies and clinics in November and December. For more information about the vaccination clinics, visit the Lake County Health Department website at http://www.lakecountyil.gov/Health/Documents/Clinic_Schedule_Digest.pdf.

District 95 appreciates your cooperation by accurately reporting symptoms if your child is ill. Additionally, we ask that you keep your child home with influenza-like symptoms that may include fever, sore throat, cough, chills vomiting, and diarrhea. Your child is to remain home until s/he is fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication. The virus is the most contagious in the earliest days of the illness. A doctor's note is not required for a student to return to school.

Let us assure you that the health and well-being of our students is a top priority with District 95, and we will continue to do everything possible to keep you informed. Please continue to check the district website at <http://www.lz95.org> for the most current information.

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Superintendent
CUSD95