

PAOLA USD 368
INFECTIOUS DISEASES, INCLUDING H1N1
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLAN
AUGUST 28, 2009

In preparation for an expected escalation of H1N1 pandemic flu, this USD 368 Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan is to assist with disseminating information and managing an outbreak of a flu virus within school facilities while sustaining educational functions.

A Paola USD 368 committee, including representation from the Miami County Health Department, reviewed current information and has established guidelines pertaining to the predicted widespread flu virus. The following flu prevention and management items are being implemented.

Students and School Staff

1. School closure will not occur, unless there is a magnitude of faculty or student absenteeism that interferes with the school's ability to function.
2. Stay home when you are sick. Students, faculty, and all staff with influenza (flu) like symptoms (fever with cough or sore throat), should stay home and not attend school or go into the community except to seek medical care. Students will need to stay home until at least 24 hours after their fever is gone, without using fever-reducing medications, such as Tylenol or Motrin.
3. Students and staff will be sent home when exhibiting flu like symptoms or if they return to school and have not been fever free with a temperature below 100 degrees for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medicine. Students will be kept in an isolation sick room, such as a nurse's office, until they are picked-up. Flu like symptoms may include the following:
 - Fever at 100 degrees or higher
 - Body aches
 - Coughing
 - Sore throat
 - Respiratory congestion
 - Diarrhea and Vomiting-in some cases
4. Avoid close contact with people who are sick. Students, faculty and staff who appear to have or develop influenza-like symptoms should be isolated properly (nurse's office) from other students and staff, and sent home. The student may be given a mask to wear until he/she is picked up to be taken home, since the virus can spread through respiratory droplets.
5. Sneeze in your sleeve. Wash your hands frequently, including before eating. Students and staff follow sanitary measures to reduce the spread of influenza:
 - Cover nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing or cough/sneeze their sleeve or elbow

- Frequently wash (rub) hands with soap and water for 15-20 seconds, use hand sanitizer if hand washing with soap is not possible. Especially wash before eating.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated and then touches his/her eyes, nose, or mouth.
6. Stay healthy by eating a balanced diet, drinking plenty of water, and getting adequate rest and exercise.
 7. Re-consider/re-design perfect attendance policy.
 8. Open communication with student and parents to continue with assignments and coursework, when students are absent from school.

Parents

1. Monitor for illness. Parents and guardians should monitor their school-aged children, every morning for symptoms of influenza-like illness, and should NOT send them to school or to daycare if symptoms are present.
2. Report all absences from school. Call the school and report specific symptoms, disease or reason student is not in school to assist with symptom/disease surveillance. Also, make sure the school has correct contact and emergency numbers to allow for prompt pick-up if influenza-like symptoms occur.
3. Stay home. If your child is ill, with influenza, like symptoms they should not attend alternative child care or congregate in other neighborhood and community settings.
4. Ill students should stay home and be discouraged from attending school in order to achieve perfect attendance for the protection of others as well as themselves.
5. Stay informed. Check your child's book bag daily to monitor for written updates from the school. Visit the Paola USD #368 website at www.usd368.org to view current updates.
6. At home, follow sanitary and disinfecting measures used at school, as appropriate.
7. Also stay informed by using the following web sites:
<http://www.kdheks.gov/H1N1/index.htm>
http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/general_info.htm

Custodial Operations at School

1. Students are encouraged to have tissues at school. All buildings have students bring tissues as part of the supply list. Additional tissues will be ordered through the district for placement in necessary locations.
2. All classroom teachers will be given a spray bottle of disinfectant to use as needed to immediately clean infected areas.
3. Building custodians will sanitize the drinking fountains at least four times daily.
4. Routine cleaning of high-traffic surfaces like doorknobs, computer keyboards, and stair railings will occur regularly. Desks will be sanitized every day.

Communication from School

1. Updated communication about flu viruses will be posted on the USD 368 website. Building newsletters will also contain information related to keeping students healthy. Communication between parents and staff can also occur through e-mails.

2. The nurses will provide staff information related to the prevention of spreading viruses.
3. The staff will communicate to students, information related to health measures for the prevention of spreading viruses.
4. Prevention posters will be displayed at prominent locations in each building.

Immunizations

1. Miami County Health Department is prepared to handle immunizations. USD 368 will work with the Health Department, if an immunization center is needed at a school building.

Employee absences and covering critical jobs

1. Presently, cross training for critical jobs should be occurring for assurance that schools can function if staff members responsible for these jobs are absent from an illness.

Notes from Governor's Summit, August 24, 2009

1. It is expected that approximately 20% of the population will get the H1N1 flu.
2. This flu is no more deadly than common seasonal flu, but it will affect more people.
3. Actual confirmation of H1N1 will not occur, but a random sampling process will be used.
4. The goal is to decrease hospitalization and death, minimize social and economic disruptions, and provide communication to the public.
5. Closing schools isn't the best option since it is ineffective and disrupts society.
6. "Well kids belong in schools, sick kids belong at home!" This also includes adults.
7. The vaccination will be available about mid October.
8. The H1N1 virus will more severely affect children and young adults.
9. Prioritization of immunizations include:
 - a. Pregnant women
 - b. Care givers of children younger than 6 months of age
 - c. Health care workers
 - d. Children to age 6 months-4 years old (no immunizations under 6 months)
 - e. Children/Adults with health issue to age 24
 - f. All healthy Children/Adults to age 24
 - g. Adults with health care issues from age 24 to 64
 - h. Healthy Adults from age 24 to 64
 - i. Adults age 64 and older