

H1N1 Information for School Staff – Talking Points for Inquiries (September 09)

1. Since the H1N1 influenza virus was first identified in spring of 2009, the virus is now becoming more widespread throughout U.S. communities, including Washoe County.
2. Washoe County School District and Student Health Services is meeting on a weekly basis with public health officials of the Washoe County Health District (the health department) in order to receive the latest information regarding the H1N1 virus.
3. Because the H1N1 virus is becoming more prevalent throughout the community, Washoe County School District is no longer actively tracking cases of H1N1 illness among our student population, however the Washoe County Health District is continuing to monitor patterns of illness throughout the community.
4. Student Health Services is continuing to strictly enforce our current exclusion policy for students who present with "influenza like illness" symptoms as below:

**Fever of 100 degrees or greater**

**WITH**

**Cough OR Sore Throat**

5. Students or staff members who present with the above symptoms MUST be excluded from school until they are fever free for 24 hours WITHOUT the use of fever reducing medication, AND the cough or sore throat is resolved.
6. IMPORTANT REMINDER: Please keep in mind that students and families have a right to complete confidentiality when it comes to health information, including the fact that the student has been excluded for H1N1 symptoms; any student who is excluded for influenza like illness symptoms does not mean the student has H1N1.
7. To ensure that students are properly screened for influenza like illness at school, teachers are reminded to send any student to the clinic that is appearing or sounding ill.

As we enter the fall flu season, all community members should observe the following habits-

**-Cover coughs/sneezes with your elbow**

**-Wash your hands frequently**

**Do not share personal items like drinks, food, or unwashed utensils**

**-Avoid touching your eyes/nose/mouth in order to avoid contact to mucous membranes.**

**Keep sick children and family members home**

8. To stay apprised of the latest information regarding H1N1 illness in our community, please refer to the Washoe County Health District's bilingual hotline number at \_1-866-767-5038. The hotline is available 24 hours day/7 days week.