

Dear Parents and Staff:

Absentee rates for today, Thursday, October 29 remain lower than earlier in the week. The following percentages represent the number of students absent from our schools today due to illness:

Guilford High School: 4.7%  
Adams Middle School: 13.1%  
Baldwin Middle School: 10.5%  
A.W. Cox School: 10%  
Melissa Jones School: 4%  
Guilford Lakes School: 2.1%  
Calvin Leete School: 11.1%

While we are pleased that our absentee rates have declined, we remain aware that we still have Guilford students and staff out ill with flu symptoms. Health officials continue to advise us that limiting group gatherings and avoiding populated public facilities help deter the spread of the virus.

For this reason, we have decided to extend the cancellation of all activities and events inside our elementary and middle schools through Sunday, November 1. This action will apply to all organizations scheduled to use our facilities for youth functions through the weekend. Activities scheduled outside on our school grounds and fields may continue as planned.

We appreciate that this decision impacts athletic and social activities and regret the inconvenience caused. Our primary concern is the health and safety of our students and staff.

The Guilford Parks and Recreation sponsored "Halloween Happenings" event is scheduled for Saturday, October 31 from 2:30 to 5 p.m. on the Green. If the weather is questionable, please contact the Parks and Recreation offices at 453-8068 or visit their website at [www.guilfordparkrec.com](http://www.guilfordparkrec.com) to find out if the event is cancelled.

Guilford Before and After Care and Suncatchers will be on their regular schedules through Friday.

Extracurricular activities and athletic events and practices at Guilford High School may go on as scheduled.

A continued reminder to parents - please keep your children home from school if they are ill with flu symptoms including a sore throat, cough, fever, or vomiting until symptoms are gone for 24 hours.

Cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces in our school buildings and on our buses will continue during the day.

In addition to monitoring our absentee rates including the reasons for the absences, we continue to consult with local and state health officials and base our decisions on the best available information. Please continue to utilize the district's website at [www.guilford.k12.ct.us](http://www.guilford.k12.ct.us) for current announcements and links to the Department of Health, the Center for Disease Control, and the Department of Education for more information on the H1N1 virus.

Thank you.

Thomas A. Forcella, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools