

October 21, 2009

Dear Parents:

All Guilford Schools are currently experiencing relatively low numbers of illness, except for the high school. GHS has seen an increase in absences and exclusions this week. Many of these students are reporting flu-like symptoms.

Diagnostic testing done in a physician's office will only confirm that influenza A is present. This outpatient testing cannot confirm H1N1. Confirmed cases of the H1N1 strain can only be determined in a laboratory setting. As most people with flu-like illness are experiencing mild symptoms, laboratory confirmation is not being routinely advised at this time.

We are closely monitoring the situation in all Guilford schools. All influenza information will continue to be posted on the district website. We are in very frequent communication with local and state officials to make decisions in the best interest of everyone in the Guilford Public School community and our town. The Madison Health Department, Guilford Health Department and East Shore Health District (Branford, Guilford, North Branford and East Haven) are working together to plan flu clinics in each town.

We can't set dates or advertise who is eligible to receive vaccine at these clinics until there is confirmation of quantity and date to be delivered. Some helpful information on influenza can be found at the following link:

http://www.ct.gov/ctfluwatch/lib/ctfluwatch/h1n1/h1n1_info_for_ct_residents_aug2009_final.pdf.

For more detailed information, please link to the attached letter.

Sincerely,

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