

School responses for the 2009-2010 school year

UNDER CONDITIONS WITH SIMILAR SEVERITY AS IN SPRING 2009

- **Stay home when sick:** Those with flu-like illness need to stay home for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever, or signs of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medicines. They should stay home even if they are using antiviral drugs
- **Separate ill students and staff:** Students and staff who appear to have flu-like illness will be sent to a room separate from others until they can be sent home.
- **Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette:** The new recommendations emphasize the importance of the basic foundations of influenza prevention: stay home when sick, wash hands frequently with soap and water when possible, and cover noses and mouths with a tissue when coughing or sneezing (or a shirt sleeve or elbow if no tissue is available). In particular, students should not share food, drinks, hygiene products like lip balm, gloves, pencils and pens, and hold hands etc.
- **Routine cleaning:** School staff will routinely clean areas that students and staff touch often with the cleaners they typically use. Special cleaning with bleach and other non-detergent-based cleaners is not necessary.
- **Early treatment of high-risk students and staff:** People at high risk for influenza complications who become ill with influenza-like illness should speak with their health care provider as soon as possible. Early treatment with antiviral medications is very important for people at high risk because it can prevent hospitalizations and deaths. People at high risk include those who are pregnant, have asthma or diabetes, have compromised immune systems, or have neuromuscular diseases.

UNDER CONDITIONS OF INCREASED SEVERITY COMPARED WITH SPRING 2009

CDC may recommend additional measures to help protect students and staff if global and national assessments indicate that influenza is causing more severe disease.

- **Active screening:** We will check students and staff for fever and other symptoms of flu when they get to school in the morning, separate those who are ill, and send them home as soon as possible. Throughout the day, staff will be vigilant in identifying students and other staff who appear ill.
- **High-risk students and staff members stay home:** People at high-risk of flu complications should talk to their doctor about staying home from school when a lot of flu is circulating in the community. Gibault will do its best to plan for ways to continue educating students who stay home.
- **Students with ill household members stay home:** Students who have an ill household member should stay home for five days from the day the first household member got sick. This is the time period they are most likely to get sick themselves.
- **Extend the period for ill persons to stay home:** If influenza severity increases, people with flu-like illness should stay home for at least 7 days, even if they have no more symptoms. If people are still sick, they should stay home until 24 hours after they have no symptoms.
- **School dismissals:** Gibault and health officials will work closely to balance the risks of flu in their community with the disruption that dismissals will cause in both education and the wider community. The length of time schools will be dismissed will vary depending on the severity and extent of illness. If dismissal is warranted it will typically be five to seven calendar days and we would reassess whether or not to resume classes after that period. If possible, the school will remain open to teachers and staff so they can continue to provide instruction through other means.