

Holy Innocents' Episcopal School
Influenza A (H1N1) Virus Policy

We are striving toward another successful and healthy school year. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Department of Education and Georgia Division of Public Health states, Influenza A H1N1 (referred to as “swine flu” early on) is a new influenza virus causing illness in people. This new virus was first detected in people in the United States in April 2009. This virus is spreading from person-to-person worldwide, probably in much the same way that common seasonal influenza viruses spread.

According to the CDC, approximately 55 million students and 7 million staff attend the more than 130,000 public and private schools in the United States each day. Based on recent information from the CDC, the H1N1 flu virus is spreading throughout the United States. The implementation of the following guidelines will help decrease the spread of the H1N1 virus among our students and staff.

1. **School closure is not advised for a suspected or confirmed case of H1N1.** It is not advised unless there is a magnitude of staff or student absenteeism that interferes with the school's ability to function.
2. **Stay home when sick:** Those with flu-like illness **MUST** remain at home at least 24 hours after being fever free (100° F or 37.8°C) or signs of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medicines. Stay home even if you are using antiviral drugs.
3. **Student's who appear to be ill will be sent to the clinic.** The symptoms according to the CDC of H1N1 in people are similar to the symptoms of seasonal flu and include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. A significant number of people have experienced vomiting and diarrhea with H1N1.

4. **Student's who appear to have flu-like illness upon arrival to school or during school time will be isolated promptly in the clinic from others and will be sent home.** CDC recommends that they wear a mask, if possible, and that those who care for ill students wear a mask.
5. Encourage your child to cover their cough and wash hands often with soap and water. The use of alcohol based hand cleaners, are also effective.
6. The student should limit contact with others and should not participate in after school activities to keep from exposing others.
7. Students who are absent due to flu-like illness MUST report to the clinic during lunchtime for evaluation. A fever of 100° or greater, parent/guardian will be notified and the student will be sent home.

We are working closely with the CDC, Department of Education and Georgia Division of Public Health to monitor flu conditions and make decisions about the best steps to take concerning our school. We will keep you updated with new information as it becomes available.

Best wishes for a happy, safe, and successful school year!

Further guidance can be found on the follow websites:

<http://www.flu.gov/plan/school/schoolguidance.html>

<http://health.state.ga.us/h1n1flu/>

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/schools/schoolguidance.htm>

