



DANBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Sal V. Pascarella, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we welcome children and staff back to the 2009-2010 school year. We want to take this opportunity to inform parents, students, and staff of some important information related to the novel H1N1 flu as well as the seasonal flu. Danbury Public Schools have been working with the public health officials to plan for the onset of flu season this year.

The most important action you can take at this time is to keep your child at home if they show signs of a flu-like illness (fever [more than 100 °F] AND a cough or sore throat. When you call in your child's absence, tell the school of your child's symptoms and when the symptoms started. Children who are well and do not have flu-like illness do **not** need to stay home from school because of close contact with someone with novel H1N1 flu. However students should not attend school if they start to show symptoms. The school nurse will be watching for signs of flu-like illness in our students and will send students with flu-like symptoms home. Please make arrangements for childcare in the event your child becomes ill and keep emergency contact lists for the school up to date. If symptoms develop while at school, arrangements must be made to return home immediately.

Check your child every morning before sending him or her to school:

If your child has:	Then you must:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit or 37.7 degrees Centigrade) AND* sore throat or cough. • Fever alone, OR • Vomiting or diarrhea, OR • Sore throat or new cough with no new fever. 	<p>Keep your child home until symptoms are gone for 24 hours.** Your child might have the flu. Other symptoms can include runny nose, body aches, vomiting, and diarrhea.</p>

*If you don't have a thermometer, feel your child's forehead with your hand. If it is much warmer than usual, your child probably has a fever.

** Guidance on how long to keep a child with flu symptoms home is subject to change. For the most updated information, visit the Connecticut Flu Watch web-site: <http://www.ct.gov/ctfluwatch>

The Centers for Disease control and prevention (CDC) recommends the main ways you and your family may keep from getting sick with the flu at school and at home:

1. Practice good hand hygiene by washing your hands often with soap and water. Alcohol based cleaners are also effective.
2. Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. If you don't have a tissue, cough or sneeze into your elbow: not into your hands
3. Get your family vaccinated for seasonal flu and 2009 H1N1 when vaccines are available.

Danbury Public Schools in collaboration with the Danbury Visiting Nurses are planning a flu clinic for the seasonal flu vaccine for all school children on Saturday, September 26th from 8am to 12pm at Broadview Middle School. Registration for your child can be made by calling 730-5249.

Additional information on the novel H1N1 as well as seasonal flu can be found on the District website at www.danbury.k12.ct.us. We thank you in advance for working with us to help keep our children and staff healthy as we begin the 2009-10010 school year.

Sal V. Pascarella, Ed.D.