



OFFICE OF STUDENT SERVICES
5775 Osceola Trail
Naples, FL 34109
(239) 377-0505
(239) 377-0506 FAX

Sent Via Outlook

M E M O R A N D U M

**TO: All Principals
School Nurses**

FR: Eileen Vargo, RN, MS Coordinator, Health Services

RE: Influenza Monitoring

DATE: October 28, 2011

As you know, we are entering the season when influenza activity increases. Because influenza viruses are commonly spread from person to person through coughs and sneezes, children in group settings such as schools may be at higher risk of becoming infected. **Primary symptoms of influenza are a fever of 100 degrees or higher with cough or sore throat.** Other symptoms that may be seen include runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache or chills.

We will once again be monitoring attendance rates and patterns of illness in our schools. Please take the following steps to help monitor and control influenza activity in your school:

1. All staff that work in the clinic should use the attached Flu Symptom Log to record information about students who are seen with flu symptoms (fever of 100 degrees or higher with sore throat or cough).
2. If three (3) or more students in the same classroom have influenza symptoms, or if your school experiences an increased number of student call-ins due to influenza-like illness, notify your school nurse and me at 70514. We will report these clusters to the Health Department as needed.
3. Students who are sent home or are reported to have influenza symptoms should not return to school until at least 24 hours after they are free of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications.
4. Encourage students, parents and staff to take preventive actions to stop the spread of germs:
 - Provide adequate access to soap, water, hand sanitizer and tissues.
 - Remind students to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or their arm and dispose of used tissues in the trash.
 - Teach students to wash hands often with soap and water.
 - Remind custodians to clean routinely touched surfaces with approved cleaning products daily.
 - The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommends seasonal flu vaccine for everyone 6 months of age or older unless they have a specific contraindication.

Please share this information with all staff that cover the clinic. Thank you.

Approved by: *Susan McNally* Date: 10/27/11
Susan McNally, Executive Director, Secondary Programs