



Clinton Public Schools

October 22, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians:

As we shared in previous communications, the district works closely with the State Department of Public Health and the Connecticut River Area Health District (CRAHD) to monitor flu conditions and make decisions about the best steps to take concerning our schools. Each Wednesday, the local directors of health participate in a teleconference with the director of the State Department of Public Health in order to stay abreast of the changing status of the H1N1 Influenza. Based on the October 21, 2009 teleconference, and information from our local private providers, the second wave of H1N1 influenza has begun in the state.

In my last letter, I indicated that Clinton has had one case of laboratory diagnosed H1N1. This fact may have caused some confusion as we are also receiving reports of cases being clinically diagnosed by local physicians.

Despite the fact that the symptoms and severity of H1N1 flu continue to be mild the flu can be easily spread from person to person. Therefore, we continue to reinforce prevention strategies; frequent hand washing, covering coughs with tissue or elbow, and reminding students not to share personal items (e.g., drinks, lipstick/lip balm, eating utensils).

Again, our goal is to keep our students safe while keeping the schools open to students and functioning in a normal manner during this flu season. Although the following list may seem redundant, we need your help during this flu season. Keeping your children home when they have a fever or exhibit other flu-like symptoms will help reduce the number of people who may get infected. District policy and the Director of Health require that students and staff stay home:

- When they have flu-like symptoms, which include: fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit or greater), cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and/or are feeling very tired (some people may also vomit or have diarrhea), and that
- Children/staff may not return until at least 24 hours after they no longer have fever or do not have signs of fever, **without using fever-reducing medicine.**

I am happy to report that families have been very cooperative and have supported our efforts in maintaining good hygienic practices at school. Given the current awareness it is all the more important not to send children to school if they are sick. In addition, children who are determined to be sick while at school will be sent home, so it is critical for families to make arrangements for other trusted family or friends to care for your children if they are sick and you cannot be home with them.

Please check the Connecticut River Area Health District's website [www.crahd.org](http://www.crahd.org) to obtain the most current information about the flu, vaccine availability, and flu clinics. You can also access the CRAHD website through the Clinton Public Schools website [www.clintonpublic.org](http://www.clintonpublic.org). General updates on H1N1 and the seasonal flu will be posted on the district website. If you have questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact Mary Jane Engle at 661-3300, or me at 664-6500.

Once again, thank you for your cooperation and support during this unusual flu season. Your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jack Cross". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jack Cross  
Superintendent of Schools