

HUDSON REGIONAL HEALTH COMMISSION
MEADOWVIEW COMPLEX
595 COUNTY AVENUE, BUILDING 1, SECAUCUS, NEW JERSEY 07094
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John P. Sarnas, President

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To Hudson County Schools:

November 10, 2009

ENHANCED SCHOOL INFLUENZA SURVEILLANCE AND REPORTING
RECOMMENDATIONS

The 2009 H1N1 (swine) influenza virus continues to circulate nationally and throughout New Jersey including Hudson County. Continued circulation of 2009 H1N1 influenza virus is expected this fall and winter in every county in New Jersey, and collaboration between schools and local health departments will continue to be an important component of our efforts to minimize the impact of influenza on health and education. The following documents provide updated guidance on monitoring and reporting of unusual influenza activity by NJ schools;

- New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS) and New Jersey Department of Education (DOE); *School Surveillance Recommendations (Attached)*
- *Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Weekly Tracking Form- Hudson County Schools (Attached)*

Hudson Regional Health Commission (HRHC) and your Local Health Department (LHD) request that all Hudson County School (public/private) conduct enhanced monitoring of influenza-like illness (ILI) activity levels as follows:

- School to conduct daily self monitoring of school nurse/medical office visits for students presenting with influenza-like illnesses (ILI);
- ILI is defined as: Fever $\geq 100^{\circ}\text{F}$ (37.8°C) plus cough and/or sore throat in the absence of another known cause.
- When ILI activity levels (including FEVER) for a specific school meet or exceed a predetermined threshold (ILI Reporting Threshold - see attached), the local school district and HRHC should be notified promptly. (HRHC will contact the LHD which in turn will work with the schools in there jurisdiction to assess and mitigate the problem).
- To report ILI activity levels above threshold call Christina Butieb-Bianco of HRHC, at 201-223-1133 fax: 21-558-0691 or email cbutieb@hudsonregionalhealth.org and cnawrocki@hudsonregionalhealth.org.
- An *Influenza-like Illness (ILI) Weekly Tracking Form* should be completed and reviewed by the school nurse and kept on file;
- **DO NOT** submit tracking forms to the health department unless requested.
- **Note:** Year-round seasonal flu surveillance remains ongoing, All schools currently enrolled in the weekly ILI surveillance please continue to submit Tuesday's absenteeism data by Wednesday 12:00pm.

"SERVING BAYONNE, EAST NEWARK, GUTTENBERG, HARRISON, HOBOKEN,
JERSEY CITY, KEARNY, NORTH BERGEN, SECAUCUS,
UNION CITY, WEEHAWKEN, WEST NEW YORK."

Your assistance in disseminating these attachments to all schools within your jurisdiction (including school nurses) is greatly appreciated. Please contact Christina Butieb-Bianco with any questions regarding this matter.

Thank you,

Carrie Nawrocki

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