

September 7, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I write with the latest update on the *Novel H1N1 Influenza Virus*. There is one change from the letter dated September 2009; a letter sent home with students on September 3, 2009. The information comes from the August 31, 2009, update from the New York State Department of Health, Division of Epidemiology. For the purpose of accuracy, I quote directly from **2009 – 2010 School (K-12) Guidance: NOVEL H1N1 INFLUENZA FLU VIRUS**.

The recommended exclusion period has changed for most situations. People with influenza-like illness (ILI) should stay home for at least 24 hours after they are free of fever (100° F [37.8° C]), or signs of a fever without the use of fever-reducing medicines. This is a change in exclusion guidance from May 12, 2009, which recommended that people with ILI stay home until at least 7 days after the onset of symptoms and fever-free for the past 24 hours. Longer exclusion periods may be appropriate in some situations.

Otherwise, the guidance provided within the letter of September 2009, remains accurate.

If you have any questions or concerns with regard to infection control in the school setting, do not hesitate to contact me or a member of our school health office team for more information. You can learn more about H1N1 flu, as well as seasonal flu, at the New York State Department of Health's website at www.health.state.ny.us or at our school district's website at www.coxsackie-athens.org.

Sincerely,

Earle S. Gregory, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools