

PANDEMIC FLU (Influenza)

REMAIN CALM – EVALUATE THE SITUATION – TAKE ACTION

Influenza Case Definition

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines an influenza-like illness as having the following symptoms: Fever of 101.5° degrees Fahrenheit or higher and one of the following: Cough, Sore throat, headache, muscle ache.

A student with flu-like symptoms must be sent to the office for screening (symptom check and/or taking temperature). If student meets the case definition as described above, he/she must be excluded from school until symptom free. Enter name of student on tracking log and report on the daily/weekly report form. Germs are spread through human contact. Wear a mask if you have one, wash hands frequently with soap and avoid touching door knobs, phones and other items that may be infected.

In the event of serious threat of a deadly influenza, instructions will be provided by local public health and safety officials on personal protection, decontamination and health warnings via the Emergency Broadcast System, transmitted over radio and television as well as through print media.

Public Health Instructions During a Pandemic Flu

Throughout a pandemic flu, people may be asked or required to do things to help hold back the spread of the disease in our community.

Here are some examples of what Health Services may ask people to do:

STAY HOME

People who are sick should stay home. Children should not go to school if they are sick. Staying home will be absolutely necessary during a pandemic flu to limit the spread of the disease.

AVOID LARGE GROUPS

People – even those who are well – should stay away from gatherings of people such as sporting events, movies and festivals. During a pandemic flu these kinds of events could be cancelled because large gatherings of people help spread the flu virus. Isolation and Quarantine are public health actions used to contain the spread of a contagious disease. If asked, it will be important to follow Isolation and/or Quarantine instructions.

ISOLATION is for people who are already ill. When someone is isolated, they are separated from people who are healthy. Having the sick person isolated (separated from others) can help to slow or stop the spread of disease. People who are isolated can be cared for in their homes, in hospitals, or other healthcare facilities. Isolation is usually voluntary, but local, state and federal government have the power to require the isolation of sick people to protect the public.

QUARANTINE is for people who have been exposed to the disease but are not sick. When someone is placed in quarantine, they are also separated from others. Even though the person is not sick at the moment, they were exposed to the disease and may still become infectious and then spread the disease to others. Quarantine can help to slow or stop this from happening. States generally have the power to enforce quarantines within their borders.

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Classroom Teachers

IN CASE OF A SERIOUS ILLNESS THREAT

- Quickly get students away from the sick person and away from air currents and objects that may spread germs-such as door knobs.
- Protect yourself and students. **Cover your mouth and nose** with a filtration mask, or with layers of fabric that can filter the air but still allow breathing (e.g., 2 -3 layers of cotton such as a t-shirt, handkerchief, towel, several layers of tissue or paper towels).
- **Wash** exposed skin with soap and water. Use common sense: practice good hygiene and cleanliness to avoid spreading germs.
- **NOTIFY ADMINISTRATION** and seek medical attention for the infected person.
 - If the affected person can be safely quarantined make sure that you can supervise the person from a distance, it may be better to move as far away as possible.
 - If you are outside, quickly decide what the fastest way to find clean air is: getting out of the affected area or going inside the closest building to **SHELTER IN PLACE.**
- **WASH HANDS WITH SOAP**
- **MAKE SURE STUDENTS UNDERSTAND HOW TO DO PROPER HYGIENE**
- **Keep accurate records of symptoms of illness and absences**
- **Distribute educational materials:**
<http://pandemicflu.gov/planguide>
- **Review the needs of vulnerable students with support staff as some of those students will need additional support during a school closure.**
- **Take care of yourself in order to effectively take care of others.**

Site Administration

INCIDENT COMMANDER (OR DESIGNEE):

- Follow instructions of doctors and other public health officials and ensure that they are communicated appropriately to staff (particularly First Aid / Basic Needs Team), students and parents.
- Make arrangements to refer families to specific sites for medical evaluation and treatment.
- Contact the Superintendent to make the final decision whether to dismiss classes / close the school. Contact MOT immediately in the event that school is dismissed or closed, to ensure coordination of student transportation.
- Initiate any other action(s) deemed necessary, or announce ALL CLEAR to direct staff to return to normal routine.

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM:

- Monitor Emergency Broadcast System for official updates from public health officials to determine the following,:
 - Are you in the group or area that authorities consider in danger?
 - What are the signs and symptoms of the disease?
 - Are medications or vaccines being distributed?
 - Where? Who should get them?
- Communicate findings to Incident Commander.

FIRST AID / BASIC NEEDS TEAM:

- Establish first aid station and administer aid as needed.

FACILITIES TEAM:

- Assess damage to facilities. Report to Incident Commander & District Command Center.
- Work with emergency response **STUDENT RELEASE / CROWD CONTROL TEAM:**
- Implement student release procedures upon direction. (Limit release to authorized adults; keep record of students released.)

District Administration

- Decide whether to close school or only some areas.