



## Mead School District Staff Protocols for Student Illness during Influenza Season

If a student becomes ill at school: (applies to all staff as well)

- **Fever 100 degrees or greater for any reason means the student may be contagious and needs to go home.** Especially during influenza season, the **student with a fever should wear a mask** until they have left the building. Send student home with “RX Influenza Prescription for Health” notice.
- **If a student has temperature below 100 degrees but complains of sore throat and/or coughing and generally looks ill (pale, lethargic, etc.), provide a mask for the student to wear and contact parent to pick up child from school.** Remember that persons coming down with the flu may not have any or few influenza symptoms for the first 24 hours but can still spread the flu to others. Send student home with “RX Influenza Prescription for Health” notice.
- **Keep masked students with flu symptoms in a designated area/room or at least 6 feet away from others without flu symptoms** (other illness, injured or healthy). This may be a challenge for many schools but schools in our area are making this effort to minimize those absent due to influenza.
- Continue *routine* cleaning of high touch surfaces in the school.
- If surfaces have been contaminated by body fluids of an ill child (vomit, respiratory discharge, etc.), cleaning and disinfecting of that contaminated surface is recommended. As usual, this “spot” sanitation can be requested of the custodian. Because the influenza virus typically lives on surfaces for just 2-8 hours, requests for surface sanitation of entire classrooms due to a case or cases of influenza is not generally indicated.

If a parent reports their child is out with influenza or reports their child has a “confirmed case of H1N1”:

- **The parent needs to keep the child home at least until fever has been gone (without fever reducing medication) for at least 24 hours** OR as directed by their health care provider.
- Encourage parent to watch siblings and other family members closely for flu symptoms and to stay home from work or school if influenza is suspected.
- Enter an **absence code of “RF” (respiratory flu) into PowerSchool** for any student reported to have influenza, is sent home with symptoms, or who is staying home due to the possibility of influenza. For **elementary only, use “LF” (Left with the Flu)** for students who are sent home during the day.
- Health care providers may advise parents of ill children to keep siblings who do not appear ill at home for 1-2 days to watch for flu symptoms. Schools *do not* require siblings of ill students to miss school at this time.
  - *Note: If the percentage of influenza illness increases significantly in a particular school or area, Spokane Regional Health District (SRHD) may recommend additional prevention measures in an effort to further limit the spread of influenza (i.e. canceling after school activities, screening students for illness, keeping siblings of ill children at home, additional parent notifications).*
- Continue *routine* cleaning of high touch surfaces in the school.

Parent notification:

- The district’s Student Services Department and School Nurses have included information in a parent influenza letter (10-5-09) that addresses students with chronic health conditions that are considered at higher risk of complications from influenza.
- Sometimes, specific parent notification of communicable disease is indicated on a student’s health care plan. Contact your school nurse if you have questions about these students who may be undergoing chemotherapy, had an organ transplant, etc.
- Please include information in parent newsletters and/or school websites as provided by health services. *Influenza cases are being increasingly reported throughout the community and cases exist in all schools in our area.*
- Mention the need for continuing efforts to decrease the spread of influenza during student and parent activities.
- The district website has influenza resource links and updated information for staff and parents.
- Other parent information will be provided for schools to distribute as indicated, in the future.

Thank you for your continued efforts to minimize the spread of illness.