

## **New Hampshire School Administrative Unit #15**

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*Assistant Superintendent*

**Charles P. Littlefield, Ed.D.**  
*Superintendent*

**Karen F. Lessard**  
*Business Administrator*

October 29, 2009

Dear Parent:

Last month I wrote to you in regard to the steps we were taking to reduce the spread of flu in all SAU #15 schools. That letter, as well as other H1N1 information, remains posted on our school websites.

You will want to know that the Department of Education, the Department of Health and Human Services, and local health agencies have taken a leadership role in helping us deal with the flu and have provided us with important advice and information.

We are monitoring attendance in all our schools and reporting attendance to the state on a daily basis. We want to thank parents for your help and cooperation in calling in absences and being specific when an absence is the result of influenza like illness. While we do not report any information regarding individual youngsters, the aggregate data is vital for the state to track and respond to illness.

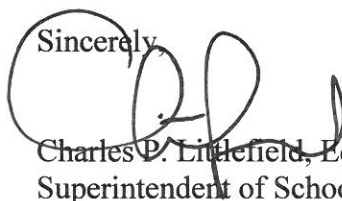
Over the last week, we have seen a significant increase in absenteeism and an increase in reports of influenza like illness. We continue to request that ill youngsters be kept at home and they do not return to school until they are fever free without medication for 24-48 hours.

Prevention measures remain the same as we reported earlier. It is important that youngsters wash their hands often, engage in cough and sneeze etiquette, not share personal items, and remain at home when ill.

Even though absenteeism has the potential for becoming very high, the Centers for Disease Control is not recommending school closings. At this point, the H1N1 virus is in the general population and closing schools would not significantly impact the spread of the flu. At the same time, I can assure you that teachers and administrators are sensitive to absences caused by the flu and have been accommodating to students and families.

We are faced with an issue that goes beyond the schools and is a community issue and we all have an important role in addressing this unusual situation. Our parents have been wonderful, as have our students and staff. Our school nurses have been exceptional and shown themselves to be consummate health professionals. For now, we will continue with the plans we have in place. I urge you to review materials on our websites and keep the lines of communication open that have, so far, worked very well.

Sincerely,



Charles P. Littlefield, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools

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