

South Kingstown School Department H1N1 Virus Plan

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*This plan shall continue to be revised as information is provided by CDC and DOH

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The South Kingstown School Department planning efforts are described herein in a two- level process.

Level 1 denotes planning steps to help keep students, teachers and staff from getting sick with flu preventatively.

We will:

- Post Department of Health updates on the district website as they are issued.
- Provide Department of Health Letter to families.
- Provide Fact Sheets for School and Teachers to Principals at faculty meeting.
- Educate and encourage students and staff to cover their mouth and nose with a tissue when they cough or sneeze (or using their elbow when a tissue is not available).
- Provide students and staff easy access to tissues and running water and soap or alcohol-based hand cleaners.
- Remind students and staff to practice good hand hygiene and provide the time and supplies for them to wash their hands or use alcohol-based cleaners as often as necessary (especially prior to meals).
- Send sick students and staff home and advise them and their families that sick people should stay at home until at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever or signs of a fever (without the use of fever-reducing medicine).
- Clean surfaces and items that are more likely to have frequent hand contact such as desks, door knobs and keyboards more frequently as a preventative measure.
- Provide cleaner and paper towels in each classroom for more frequent cleaning as needed (in compliance with the material safety data sheet).
- Move students and staff to a separate room or area (if possible) if they become sick at school until they can be sent home.
- Pre-purchase additional cleaning supplies, additional alcohol based cleaners and other supplies proactively.

- Encourage early medical evaluation for sick students and staff at higher risk of complications from flu. People at high risk of flu complications who get sick will benefit from early treatment with antiviral medications.
- Update student and staff contact information and emergency contact lists.
- Update school closing and delay communication plans
- Identify school nurse teachers and central office staff as liaisons with the Department of Health and the Rhode Island Department of Education.
- Identify athletic director as liaison to the RIIIL Rhode Island Inter-Scholastic League.
- Encourage the display of posters denoting proper hand washing and coughing etiquette.
- Collaborate with local community organizations, local businesses and social service agencies on flu prevention and response planning.
- Encourage students and staff to not share pens and pencils.
- Find ways to increase social distances (the space between people) by moving desks farther apart and grouping creatively.

Level 2 denotes planning steps **if in the rare instance** flu conditions become MORE severe:

We will:

- Clean surfaces and items such as desks, door knobs and keyboards daily.
- Clean surfaces such as handrails, bleachers and other common areas daily.
- Employ the “roving cleaning crew” to aggressively disinfect entire schools
- Limit the number of staff who take care of the sick persons.
- Extend the time sick students and staff for at least 7 days, even if they feel better sooner. Those who are sick after 7 days should continue to stay home until at least 24 hours after symptoms have gone away.
- Conduct active fever and symptom screening of students and staff upon arrival at school. Any sick students and staff should be separated and then sent home.
- Survey high school students and staff as to their access to computers (should the need arise to teach virtually if the high school should close for an extended period of time).
- Provide a virtual high school curriculum if the high school is closed for a significant period of time.
- Develop a plan for attracting additional substitute teachers.
- Develop a plan to cover key staff positions when staff stay home due to illness.
- Develop flu plan communications with key vendors (food service and transportation).
- Rotate physical education equipment so that students will be using equipment that has been rotated and not used in two or more consecutive classes (when possible).
- Aggressively clean of OT/PT mats.
- Aggressively clean of bus seats (and car seats if applicable).
- Make changes to building use forms indicating required cleaning before and after events and possible suspension of use by outside groups.

- Encourage parents to drive students to school instead of using bus transportation (if feasible).
- Allow high risk students and staff to stay home upon recommendation of their physician (and brainstorm a make-up plan).
- Work with the local health department to address provision of psychosocial support services for the staff, students and their families during and after a pandemic.
- Develop a continuity of operations plan for essential central office functions including payroll and ongoing communication with students and parents.
- Allow teachers to determine when additional ventilation is needed in the classrooms (opening windows and doors).