

October 16, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians, Faculty, and Staff:

We have been notified that we have a student who attends Westport Central School who has tested positive for Influenza A. In addition, we are aware that we have several students who have experienced influenza like symptoms and are getting healthy at home. We do not have a confirmation that these cases are H1N1. However, Essex County Public Health Department reports that H1N1 is circulating in our region based on their collaboration with the Clinton County Public Health Department. It is recommended that people should continue to take precautionary measures.

Furthermore, the NYS Department of Health, the Center for Disease Control and the Essex County Public Health Department recommend monitoring your child for influenza like symptoms: fever over 100 F, sore throat, cough, nasal congestion, muscle aches and fatigue. Children developing symptoms with a history of underlying medical conditions such as asthma, diabetes, immunosuppressive disorders etc. should contact their child's medical provider. All persons with flu like symptoms are advised to stay home 24 hours after the fever has resolved without the assistance of fever reducing medications. For more information about influenza like illness and measures to prevent the flu go to:

www.co.essex.ny.us/publichealth/flucentral.org

www.nyhealth.gov

www.cdc.gov.gov

Our school administrators, school nurse, and school physician continue to consult with local health officials regarding necessary and appropriate precautionary measures. We will continue our heightened level of screening, observation and best cleaning practices for infection control in our building. We will continue to do our very best to keep our school community apprised of all developments.

Thank you for cooperation, support, and ongoing vigilance to this matter.

Sincerely,

John W. Gallagher

John W. Gallagher, Ed.D.

Superintendent