



ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TAYLOR EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION COMPLEX
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November 3, 2009

Dear Parents, Guardians and Employees:

The health department's H1N1 flu vaccination program resumed on Monday, November 2 when shots and nasal mist applications were administered at Lightfoot Elementary School. The process went very smoothly, according to Ms. Judy Anderson, Principal of Lightfoot.

The nationwide shortage of vaccine continues to make it difficult for the health department to establish a timetable for future vaccinations in our schools. As of now, we can only confirm that the next clinic will be conducted at Locust Grove Elementary School with the remainder scheduled as follows:

- a. Gordon-Barbour Elementary School and the TEAC Head Start/Alternative Education Program;
- b. Orange Elementary School;
- c. Locust Grove Middle School;
- d. Prospect Heights Middle School; and then
- e. Orange County High School.

Due to the delays in the school vaccination program, some parents have had their children vaccinated by the health department or by some other health care provider. It is very important that parents inform the school nurse and the school principal if their child already has received the H1N1 vaccination. Although the health department maintains an effective system for tracking vaccinations, no system is foolproof. We must work together to make sure that no child receives a double dose of the vaccine.

The following chart shows the number of cases of flu-like illness reported in Orange County Public Schools for the week of October 26-29, 2009. Note that students were not in school on Friday, October 20.

School	Total Enrollment	Total Reports of Influenza for the week ending October 23, 2009
Gordon-Barbour Elementary	381	10
Lightfoot Elementary	298	2
Locust Grove Elementary	653	37
Locust Grove Middle	826	10
Orange County High School	1,584	43
Orange Elementary	573	8
Prospect Heights Middle	498	16
Unionville Elementary	297	10
Total	5,110	136

In all cases of flu-like illness, our school nurses work with parents to ensure that infected students remain out of school until they have been cleared to return by their health care provider.

The following chart displays the attendance rate for each school and for the division. It also compares this October's 2009 rate against the rate for last October, 2008. While it is clear that more students have been absent this year compared to last year, overall absenteeism has remains at a very manageable level.

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School	Daily Student Attendance Rate for October 2009	Daily Student Attendance Rate for October 2008
Gordon-Barbour Elementary	93.9%	97.0%
Lightfoot Elementary	93.4%	95.5%
Locust Grove Elementary	90.5%	94.4%
Locust Grove Middle	95.5%	95.5%
Orange County High School	88.4%	92.7%
Orange Elementary	93.8%	95.8%
Prospect Heights Middle	93.6%	95.5%
Unionville Elementary	92.0%	94.3%
Total	91.8%	94.6%

As always, I conclude with the following review of the steps that are recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

- Most people who get any form of influenza, including H1N1, recover without any treatment or special care. However, influenza can cause serious illness in some people, especially those with other health problems. Children and adults who develop a fever of at least 100°F and a cough or sore throat should call their doctor, especially if they are at higher risk of complications from influenza.
- Flu viruses spread from person to person through coughing or sneezing. Parents can help protect others by keeping their sick children at home or away from others until at least 24 hours after they are free of fever (100°F) or signs of a fever without the use of fever-reducing medications. They can also encourage the use of good cough and hand hygiene etiquette.
- Because influenza has caused illness in our school community, persons who are at higher risk of complications from influenza should consider calling their healthcare providers to discuss whether any additional precautions are advised.
- Students and staff who are well may attend school, even if others at home are sick, but they should stay at home as soon as they develop signs of illness.

Remember also to maintain plans for childcare at home if your child becomes ill or cannot go to school for a week or longer. For information on how to care for a sick person at home and for other questions about flu, contact your health care provider or local health department; visit this website: www.vdh.virginia.gov; or call 1-877-ASK-VDH3 or 1-(877) 275-8343.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Grimesey, Jr., Ed.D.
Superintendent