



COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Environmental Health & Prevention Services

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CHATHAM-KENT PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT

Environmental Health Services

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To all Parents:

As your child begins another school year, your local public health unit wants to reassure you that public health officials have been working closely with school board officials over the summer months to develop proactive, consistent strategies based on the latest scientific information to manage the H1N1 influenza virus in schools.

H1N1 is a respiratory virus that is circulating through the community. The virus is spread from person to person in the same way that seasonal influenza spreads, mostly through coughing and sneezing. Public health staff will be reinforcing the messages of hand hygiene and cough etiquette with school staff and students throughout the year, as is being done with the public.

To assist in controlling the spread of the H1N1 influenza virus in schools, it is recommended that you keep your child home from school if he/she is sick with a respiratory illness.

On the reverse side of this letter, you will find a fact sheet with the most current information on the H1N1 influenza virus and things that you can do at home to reinforce the messages of hand hygiene and cough etiquette. These health messages will be promoted at your child's school by principals and teachers with the assistance of public health staff.

Public Health will continue to work with school staff throughout the year by providing them with updated information as it becomes available.

Sincerely,

Dr. Chris Greensmith
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Chatham-Kent Public Health Unit