

WILLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

This letter is to update you on the H1N1 Virus. We have had an increase in the number of students absent with flu-like symptoms. This is not surprising because as of yesterday, the CT DPH reported a total of 420 confirmed cases of H1N1 in 70 towns. There are twelve (12) confirmed cases of H1N1 identified within our health district: Andover (1), Bolton (3), Columbia (1), Coventry (1), Mansfield (2), and Tolland (4). None of these cases have required hospitalization and all are recovering, or fully recovered.

Fortunately, the severity of illness associated with H1N1 is no greater than regular seasonal influenza. I have been in contact with Robert Miller, the Director of Health for the Eastern Highlands Health District. At this time he is suggesting that we follow the recommendations set forth in the Centers for Disease Controls Interim Guidelines for K-12 schools. These guidelines state that:

- Students, faculty or staff with influenza-like illness (fever with a cough or sore throat) should stay home and not attend school or go into the community except to seek medical care for at least 7 days even if symptoms resolve sooner.
- Students, faculty and staff who are still sick 7 days after they become ill should continue to stay home from school until at least 24 hours after symptoms have resolved.
- Parents and guardians should monitor their school-aged children, and faculty and staff should self-monitor every morning for symptoms of influenza-like illness.
- Ill students should not attend alternative child care or congregate in other neighborhood and community settings outside of school.

For regular updates please check the following websites:

Willington Public Schools Website: <http://www.willingtonpublicschools.org/>

Centers for Disease Control: <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>

Eastern Highlands Health District: <http://www.ehhd.org/>

I will continue to keep you informed to the best of my ability. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation.

Sincerely,

David C. Harding

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Superintendent