

Plattsburgh City School District

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May 15, 2009

Dear Parents, Faculty and Staff:

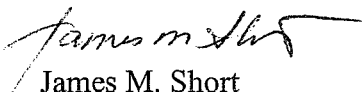
I was informed this morning by Clinton County Health Department representatives that a child who attends Bailey Avenue Elementary School has tested positive this week for H1N1 influenza. The child, who has an underlying medical condition, is receiving treatment and is recovering. HIPPA regulations preclude the divulging of any specific, identifiable information about the student involved. Since receiving the information this morning, I have met with three Health Department representatives and District health services staff. I have also contacted media outlets to apprise them of this situation.

We are currently following the direction of the NYS Department of Education and the NYS Health Department. As you will see from the attached DOH release, protocol in such instances is for schools to remain open. We will comply with this position, and we have introduced a heightened level of screening and observation at all of our school buildings. While the District will not be adjourning our regular program, parents are always free to make their own decisions regarding their student(s) attendance.

The introduction of H1N1 into our region has been anticipated for several weeks, and our response was well choreographed and rehearsed before this morning's news. While no District ever wants to be the first to receive this news, I am confident that we are perhaps best prepared to deal with this matter: We have tremendous expertise and capacity with our Health Services staff, school nurses, nurse practitioner, school physician, and we work closely with the Department of Health.

We will continue to do our very best to keep you apprised of all developments, and we are putting in-place mechanisms to deal with increased inquiries from parents and the public. Thank-you for your cooperation, your support, and your ongoing vigilance.

Sincerely,



James M. Short
Superintendent of Schools

– MISSION –

Our mission is to educate each student of the Plattsburgh City School District by creating challenging, supportive, and interactive learning that advances intellectual, physical, social, and cultural development.



Clinton County Health Department

Paula Calkins Lacombe, Director of Public Health
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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect

"Working Together for a Healthier Community"

Health Information Line: (518) 565-4490 Web: www.clintonhealth.org

Administration Unit

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Clinton County Health Department Press Release #5 "H1N1 Case in Clinton County" May 15, 2009

The Clinton County Health Department has received notification of the first H1N1 diagnosis of a Clinton County resident. A child, with a significant underlying medical condition, tested positive for H1N1 influenza on Thursday, May 14. The child is recovering and appropriate steps are being taken to identify close contacts to monitor for illness. The child had recently traveled to a part of the state where H1N1 cases had previously been identified.

The child began experiencing influenza like symptoms earlier this week and was immediately placed on an antiviral in an effort to diminish the impact of the illness. The antiviral appears to have been effective. The child was not hospitalized for the illness and no family members are experiencing influenza type illness. The child has not returned to school.

All New York State schools follow recommendations from the New York State Education Department and the New York State Health Department. These state authorities **no longer** recommend schools to be closed when a student tests positive for H1N1 influenza.

Over the last month the H1N1 virus had managed to spread across the country and throughout most of New York State. As more about the H1N1 strain of Type A influenza has been learned it has become apparent that for most people exposed, the illness results in mild to moderate illness.

Local health officials continue to advise all individuals to follow the following health tips to stay healthy:

- ◆ Wash hands often with soap and warm water.
- ◆ Use alcohol-based cleaners when soap and water is unavailable.
- ◆ Stay home from work or school if you are sick.
- ◆ Use tissues when you cough, sneeze, or spit and dispose of the tissue in a covered trash bin.
- ◆ Wash hands or use alcohol cleanser immediately after handling tissues.
- ◆ Cough or sneeze into your sleeve.
- ◆ Keep hands away from your face. Avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth.
- ◆ Clean surfaces in shared space such as phone receivers, keyboards and office equipment.
- ◆ Do not share personal items such as forks, spoons, toothbrushes and towels.
- ◆ If you are sick do not visit infants, the elderly, or those with serious

medical conditions.

- ◆ Try to keep six feet of space between you and other individuals who are coughing or sneezing.

It is not possible to contract H1N1 (swine flu) from eating pork or pork products.

For more information about H1N1 and additional precautionary measures and daily updates go to:

Clinton County Health Dept. website: www.clintonhealth.org

New York State website: www.nyhealth.gov

Center for Disease Control website: www.cdc.gov/swineflu/

Recorded messages about swine are available by calling the Clinton County Health Info Line at 518-565-4490 and choose option 2. The toll free 24/7 NYS public call center is 1-800-808-1987 and connects to a live person.

Endorsed by: *Paula Calkins Lacombe*
Paula Calkins Lacombe
Director of Public Health

