

What Avon Grove schools are doing to combat H1N1 & seasonal flu:



As part of Avon Grove School District's pandemic flu response procedures, our school nurses are monitoring visits to the nurses' offices and are reviewing student absence notes to identify patterns of flu-like illnesses. We provide a weekly report to the Chester County Health Department which includes the total number of student absences and the number of students treated by the school nurse for flu-like symptoms.

Flu-like symptoms are defined as having a fever greater than 100 degrees Fahrenheit or being feverish along with body aches, a cough and/or sore throat.



Schools regularly disinfect common areas, such as bathrooms and the cafeteria. During flu season, extra care is taken to regularly disinfect frequently touched surfaces. Germs can still spread, however, from contaminated surfaces in schools, homes, and public places. That's why cough/sneeze etiquette, frequent hand washing, and not touching the eyes/nose/mouth are so important.



In August 2009, health officials issued updated guidelines for schools regarding closures. Health officials now recommend the least disruptive approach and have indicated that school closures do not stop the spread of the flu virus in communities. Avon Grove officials continue to work closely with school nurses, the school physician, and local health officials for guidance concerning medical advice and prevention, containment, and treatment measures. The superintendent is responsible for making the final determination with regard to school closures. Parents of K-8 students may request makeup work through the school's main office. Schools need 24-hours notice. Homework assignments will not be faxed to/from any schools.

What parents and students can do to combat H1N1 & seasonal flu:



Health officials say the best way to beat germs and avoid getting the flu is to wash your hands. Students must wash their hands frequently, especially after using the bathroom and/or sneezing/coughing.

Students should avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth to keep germs from getting into their bodies. If you use a tissue, throw it out. If no tissue is available, cough or sneeze into the corner of your elbow -- not in your hands.



If soap and water are not readily available, students can use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Hand sanitizers are located in the common areas of each school. Signs are posted reminding students that "One pump is enough!"

Parents and guardians are reminded of the importance of keeping sick children home to allow them sufficient time to recover and to prevent the spread of illnesses.

Students should stay home from school and avoid other people until they are fever-free, without medication, for a minimum of 24 hours and illness symptoms are dramatically improved.



If a child is absent due to illness, parents are asked to list the child's specific symptoms (e.g. fever, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, etc.) on the absence note to be sent in when the student returns to school. Also, if a doctor suspects or confirms a student has Influenza A, the child's parents should report the case to the school nurse.