

Things School Nurses Can Do to Prepare for this Influenza Season and H1N1 (Swine Flu)

As a school nurse, here are some things that you can do

1. Review your school or district's pandemic flu plan
 - ✓ If your school or district does not have such a plan discuss the need and importance of this plan with your administrator and/or risk manager
 - ✓ If your school does not have a pandemic Flu Plan, you can go to www.pandemicflu.gov to view a Planning Guide for Educators. This guide offers definitions, brief description of measures to limit the spread of flu and basic components of Pandemic planning.
 - ✓ Your local health agency can be an important partner in the development and implementation of this plan
2. Contact your local health agency (or encourage the school administrator or lead staff for the Pandemic Flu Plan make the contact) to:
 - ✓ Share contact information with the local public health agency
 - ✓ Discuss the school's role and responsibilities within the county's pandemic flu plan
 - ✓ Design clear communication lines to share the latest information about H1N1
 - ✓ The U.S. Department of Education has confirmed that FERPA privacy regulations are not to interfere in communications with public health officials per USDOE emergency guidelines.
3. Plan to inform parents regarding measures they can take to prevent the spread of influenza (See attached documents:
 - ✓ **"Letter to the Parents"**
 - ✓ **"When to Keep Your Child at Home"**
4. Prepare staff and school building:
 - ✓ Reinforce frequent hand washing skills with school staff and students
 - ✓ Assure that soap and water resources and/or chemical hand sanitizers are readily available in classrooms, cafeterias and other areas that students congregate
 - ✓ Identify an isolation room or space in the school building where students who may have signs and symptoms (s/s) of influenza could wait for parents to pick them up. Space is limited in most school health rooms and it makes sense to keep students with influenza s/s in one area away from other students that might be using the health office.
 - ✓ Plan for adult supervision of this isolation room
 - ✓ Connect frequently with the school faculty and staff regarding planning for influenza in the school
5. Follow the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention H1N1 Flu Recommendations found at http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/K12_dismissal.htm
6. Stay tuned for future updates

