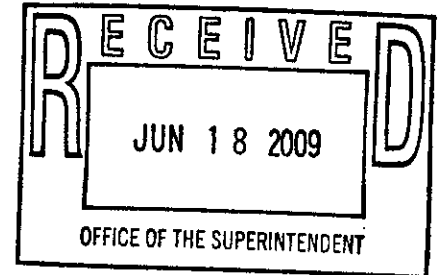




City of Milford, Connecticut

- Founded 1639 -

HEALTH DEPARTMENT



A. Dennis McBride, M.D., M.P.H.
Health Director

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June 17, 2009

Dear Parents,

This letter is about the novel H1N1 influenza virus ("swine flu") and children attending extended school year programs ("summer school") this summer. There are confirmed cases of novel H1N1 influenza virus among our school age children in Milford.

At present, the novel H1N1 influenza virus poses the same health risk as seasonal flu. The novel H1N1 virus spreads easily and quickly and has had a large impact on children under the age of 18 years. Though this virus may be a mild infection for some, it can be serious for individuals with special health conditions (i.e. asthma, diabetes, heart disease and other conditions). Individuals with such conditions should be under close supervision by their medical provider to ensure they receive adequate medical care, antiviral medication for prevention or early treatment if indicated and vaccines when available.

On July 6th, the first day of the extended school year programs, all students will have their temperature taken by a school nurse from the Health Department. Any child with a fever over 100°F will be immediately dismissed home. This will establish a baseline that all children are fever-free on entry to school. Additionally, the school nurse will monitor children daily for influenza like illness, which is defined as fever over 100°F and sore throat or cough. Because some children may not be able to communicate their symptoms, a change in behavior will also be observed as potentially influenza like illness.

**Children displaying influenza like illness symptoms will be dismissed home, referred to their medical provider and will not be allowed to return to school for 7 days.
Children must also be symptom free before re-entry to school.**

Please be advised that if children with fevers and other symptoms of influenza like illness are identified at the school programs, the school may be closed to protect against further spread of disease; School may be closed for one week or more, depending on the severity of the outbreak. This is a measure implemented to protect your child's health.

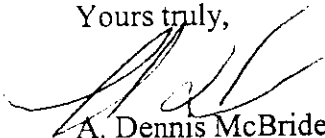
At this time we strongly recommend the following:

- Please keep your child home if they are ill
- Speak with your medical provider about antiviral medication (such as *Tamiflu*) if your child has health conditions that may put them at risk for complications from the flu.

- Remember to instruct your child to cover their cough and sneeze
- Instruct your child to wash hands well and often
- Plan for an interruption in camp if your child becomes ill or there is an outbreak of illness.
- Make plans now for alternate childcare if school is closed due to health reasons.

Thank you for your attention to this health advisory for extended school year participants. For updates on novel H1N1 influenza virus prevention, planning and response activities, please visit the City of Milford website at www.ci.milford.ct.us or call the Milford Health Department at 230-783-3285.

Yours truly,



A. Dennis McBride, MD, MPH
Health Director

Cc: H. Polansky, Ph.D, Superintendent of Schools ✓
S. Kelleher, Director Pupil Personnel