



# City of Milford, Connecticut

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## HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Dear Parents,

As we begin the school year and hear all the quickly evolving news about H1N1 (swine) pandemic influenza, we want to give you an update as to where we are with planning for the current H1N1 influenza pandemic.

At the end of the 2008-2009 school year and through the summer, the Milford Health Department and Milford Public Schools developed several policies, plans, and procedures to protect our children and minimize the impact of novel H1N1 influenza virus on our community. We are working together to monitor the situation closely and prepare Milford for the events to come in the next few weeks and months. The health of our children and school staff are our highest priority.

Although so far pandemic H1N1 influenza has been seemingly "mild," the evidence is clear that this virus spreads easily and has had a significant impact on children under the age of 18. Also, though this virus may be mild for some, it has been more severe for people with underlying medical conditions, such as asthma, diabetes, and other conditions.

As we begin the new school year, we want to remind you of a few of the policies and procedures that are in place to help prevent the spread of pandemic H1N1 influenza in our schools:

- **If your child is sick, you must keep your child home from school.** Your child must remain home for at least 24-hours after they no longer have a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medicines (such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen). Your child should remain in your home during this period of exclusion from school, unless you are seeking medical care. Sick individuals should avoid contact with others to decrease spread of flu.
- **If your child comes to school with symptoms of influenza-like illness, or ILI,** he/she will be sent home from school. ILI is defined as a fever of 100°F AND cough or sore throat.
- **If your child has a special health condition (i.e. asthma, heart or lung problems, diabetes, etc.),** talk to your medical provider to ensure your children receive appropriate medical care and immunizations when vaccines are available. Children with such conditions

should be under close supervision by a medical provider, as they are at higher risk for serious complications from H1N1 flu.

Again, the Milford Health Department and Milford Public Schools will be monitoring for influenza-like illness in the school. Our goal is to keep students and staff safe and healthy while continuing the important work of educating our children. At present the decision to close schools will be made based on several factors including school absenteeism, the extent of Influenza-Like Illness (ILI) in the school, and the most current public health and clinical information. These decisions will be handled on a school-by-school basis with careful deliberation.

As we continue to prepare on a citywide level, we encourage you to make plans for yourselves and your family. Talk to your family, employers, and neighbors about emergency plans, should you need to stay home with a sick child or household member.

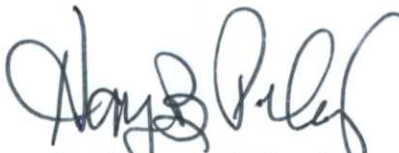
Please note that the guidelines above are based on information available at this time. These guidelines may change depending on how the face of H1N1 pandemic flu evolves over the next several weeks and months. We will continue to provide updates regarding pandemic H1N1 influenza as they are available. For updates on novel H1N1 influenza virus prevention, planning and response activities, please visit the Milford Health Department website at <http://www.ci.milford.ct.us/Public Documents/MilfordCT Health/health> or call the Milford Health Department at 203-783-3285.

Thank you for helping us to keep our schools as healthy as possible for all students and staff. We're looking forward to an exciting and successful school year.

Sincerely,



A. Dennis McBride, MD, MPH  
Health Director & School Medical Advisor



Dr. Harvey B. Polansky  
Superintendent of Schools