

WESTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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H1N1 UPDATE

October 29, 2009

- This **UPDATE** provides information regarding H1N1 influenza activity in Weston in relation to a number of Connecticut communities experiencing an increase in ILI activity. While the facts related to preventative strategies have not changed, there have been changes in data available at the state and local levels regarding H1N1 and “influenza-like illness” (ILI) activity.

Key Facts about H1N1 Disease as of October 2009

- Consistent with increases in ILI activity across Connecticut schools, the Weston Public Schools are seeing a moderate increase in ILI activity.
- The absence rate for students has stayed within the range of normal limits with a slight bump at Hurlbutt Elementary School. Today, 7% (41 students) at Hurlbutt Elementary School, 6% (40 students) at Weston Intermediate School, 4% (25 students) at Weston Middle School and 3% (25 students) at Weston High School were absent.
- Some parents have reported ILI symptoms in students sick at home and others are reporting cold and allergy symptoms.

Key Facts about H1N1 Vaccine Distribution

- To obtain information on eligibility and availability of H1N1 vaccine in our area, check the Westport Weston Health District’s website at www.wwhd.org/h1n1.htm

School Interventions

- Schools will stay open unless there is a point at which they are unable to operate due to very high student or staff absenteeism.
- WPS school cleaning procedures are in keeping with guidance from the Centers for Disease Control related to H1N1 transmission concerns. As a reminder, this virus lives on inanimate objects for 2-8 hours; hence school scrub downs at night are ineffective and unnecessary.
- School and local public health officials continue to collaborate, and to monitor for changes in guidance from the State Department of Public Health and U.S. Centers for Disease Control.

To reduce the spread of H1N1 in our schools the Center for Disease Control recommends:

- **DO NOT SEND YOUR CHILDREN TO SCHOOL WHEN THEY ARE NOT FEELING WELL.**
- **Keep your children home if they have signs of illness;** monitor for fever and cough, sore throat.
- If your child has a fever, **keep him or her home for at least 24 hours** after he or she no longer has a fever **without the use of fever-reducing medication.**
- Get your children vaccinated when vaccine becomes available (H1N1, seasonal).
- Consult with your physician in advance if your child has a chronic condition that puts him/her at higher risk for illness with the flu.