

Turning Point School's Plan for H1N1 Influenza Response

Along with the normal, seasonal influenza, there is another strain, H1N1, which has been affecting people and is expected to hit schools this fall.

Preventative Measures

Faculty and staff members have received training in responding to influenza as part of our review of first aid and safety precautions, conducted during late August.

Our Facilities staff members have ensured that sanitizer for hand cleansing purposes is prominently featured in areas frequented by children in the Primary and K1. These children are in the age group that is most at risk. The sanitizer is alcohol free and non toxic.

As for any flu, we will remind students of the importance of thorough and frequent hand washing. Also, we will highlight proper coughing and sneezing technique, i.e. into a disposable tissue or into an elbow rather than into the air or on the hands.

We will also exercise vigilance with our under-5 population, and with children with asthma or other chronic conditions.

As parents, you can help us contain contagion by keeping sick children at home. Significant symptoms to watch for are fevers in excess of 100 degrees, diarrhea, dizziness, and vomiting. Students should not return to school until these symptoms have been gone for 24 hours. Fevers must have passed off and must not require fever reducers.

Children who develop these symptoms during the school day will go to rest in Ms. O'Callaghan's office if they are enrolled in the Primary or Elementary Divisions and to Mr. Boylan's office if they are enrolled in Middle School. Parents will be notified, and asked to pick their children up from the appropriate office.

Virus Mutation

If the H1N1 virus mutates into a more virulent form, making more children gravely ill, we will respond with an appropriate change in approach. Many of our students may be hearing news reports about the H1N1 strain. Our goal is to do all we can to protect the health of our children without alarming or frightening them. We are monitoring the policies of CAIS and NAIS, as well as the Center for Disease Control, to inform our own policy. In the interim, our first concern, as always, is the well being of each of our Turning Point students, and we will remain vigilant in monitoring their health at school.