



WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

185 HOSPITAL DRIVE

WARREN PA 16365-4885

ROBERT E. TERRILL, ED. D.
SUPERINTENDENT

Warren County School District Pandemic Plan

Purpose:

To prepare for, protect against, and respond to influenza in our schools and community

Definitions:

- Pandemic – According to the World Health Organization a pandemic is a worldwide epidemic of a disease. “An influenza pandemic may occur when a new influenza virus appears against which the human population has no immunity.”
- High Risk Students and School Personnel – Children under the age of 5 years, pregnant women, people of any age with chronic medical conditions (i.e.: pulmonary disease, diabetes, neuromuscular disorders or cardiac conditions), and people age 65 years and older. They are more likely to get complications from influenza.
- School Dismissal – School is closed for students but may be open for school personnel
- School Closure – Closing the school for all students and school personnel

Communication:

- The superintendent or his designee will communicate with parents via the Call Blast System
- Parent letter
- WCSD website
- A parent note will be given to students being sent home with a fever and/or symptoms of influenza-like illness
- The superintendent or his designee will communicate with the local media
- The department head nurse (or designee) will communicate with the superintendent and directors daily
- The certified school nurses will communicate on a daily basis with the department head nurse (or designee)
- The certified school nurses will be in contact with their assigned schools on a daily basis
- The superintendent or his designee will communicate with the PA State Department of Health, Warren General Hospital, and the Emergency Operation Command as needed

Prevention:

- Aramark's General Manager and Custodial Supervisor will work with the custodial staff to ensure proper cleaning of WCSD buildings
- Transportation Manager/Purchasing/Security will work with the WCSD school bus/van contractors to ensure proper cleaning of school buses and vans
- Routine environmental cleaning (additional disinfection beyond routine cleaning is not recommended)
 - High use surfaces
 - Frequently touched objects (i.e.: door knobs, sink facets, desk, computer keyboards, etc.)
 - Wipes in computer labs for keyboards
- Practice good hand hygiene
 - Encourage good hand washing technique
 - Hand sanitizer in classrooms without sinks
- Practice respiratory Etiquette
 - Tissues in classrooms
 - Encourage coughing/sneezing in a tissue, elbow, arm, or sleeve, not in the hands
- Signs regarding hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette will be posted in all buildings
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
 - Surgical mask will be available to certified school nurses and other school personnel caring for sick students at school
- Parents will be encouraged to keep their students home from school when ill
- School personnel will be encouraged to stay home when ill
- Families and school personnel will be encouraged to get the seasonal influenza vaccine and the Novel H1N1 vaccine when available

Education:

- Hand Washing/Hand Hygiene
 - Wash with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (the time it takes to sing "Happy Birthday" twice)
 - Alcohol based hand sanitizers containing at least 60% alcohol are effective alternatives to soap and water
- Respiratory Etiquette
 - Cough/sneeze in a tissue or the elbow, arm, or sleeve, not in the hands
- Signs and symptoms of an influenza-like-illness
 - Fever of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or greater, along with a cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headaches, and feeling very tired. Some individuals may have vomiting and/or diarrhea.

Students and School Personnel with symptoms of Influenza-Like Illness

- Ill students and school personnel will be evaluated by the school nurse or building administrator
- Students and school personnel will be sent home with a fever of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or greater and observed for other symptoms of influenza-like illness
- Parents and students will be informed that they are to remain at home until 24 hours after they are fever free, without using fever-reducing medications (see parent note for ill student)
- Students with symptoms of influenza-like illness will be kept separate from others while they remain at school
- Students will be monitored upon returning from an influenza-like illness to assure that they are symptom free
- School personnel will be advised that they need to stay home for 24 hours after they are free of fever, without using fever-reducing medications

Attendance:

- Students with a fever of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or greater should stay at home for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever
- Siblings are expected to attend school if they are symptom free
- Parents and students may contact their individual school to obtain homework per the per schools procedures when out ill
- High risk students and school personnel may need to stay at home. This decision should be made in consultation with their physician. This will be handled on an individual basis with the Warren County School District.

Monitoring:

- On a daily basis a report from the school nurses will be emailed to WCSD Directors
- Monitor absenteeism – student and school personnel
 - Student absenteeism will be monitored by the Director of Instructional Technology/Communications
 - School Personnel absenteeism will be monitored by the Director of Human Resources and Kelly Services Account Manager
- If excess absenteeism the Superintendent or his designee will contact the PA Department of Health for guidance. If it is determined to dismiss students the WCSD School Board president will be notified to call an emergency school board meeting.
- If students are dismissed the superintendent or his designee will notify the PA Department of Health, PA Department of Education, by submitting a report at www.cdc.gov/FluSchoolDismissal.

School Personnel Staffing:

- School personnel staffing will be done by Kelly Services
- In the event that there is a teacher substitute shortage the WCSD Emergency Staffing Guidelines will be implemented

Vaccines:

- WCSD will work in conjunction with the PA Department of Health and the Emergency Operation Command when the Novel H1N1 vaccine is available

Changes to this plan may occur if influenza becomes more severe. This will be done with the guidance of the CDC and the PADOH.

Additional Information:

Preparing for the Flu: A Communication Toolkit for Schools (Grades K-12)
www.flu.gov/plan/school/schoolflutoolkit.pdf

CDC Guidance for State and Local Public health Officials and School Administrators for School (K-12) Responses to Influenza during the 2009-2010 School Year www.flu.gov

PA Department of Health Guidance for School (K-12) Responses to Influenza during the 2009-2010 School Year www.health.state.pa.us

8/26/2009