

TO ALL STAFF AND PARENTS:

State Department of Health recognizes that seasonal flu continues in all communities. We are asked to implement the following protocols to maximize infection control. Following these protocols does not imply that a student or adult has contracted H1N1. The local and state health departments are advocating the following measures:

Student or staff who become ill with flu-like symptoms during the school day will be **required** to wear a mask while they are waiting for an evaluation by the school nurse and/or while they are waiting to be dismissed from school. **IF YOU SEE A STUDENT OR ADULT WITH A MASK, IT DOES NOT IMPLY INFLUENZA BUT IS A REFLECTION OF MEASURES TO CONTROL INFECTION.** Influenza is not an airborne illness. It is spread by droplets. Routine washing of hands and cleaning of surfaces will help minimize the spread of germs.

Nurses are **required** to wear masks and gloves while they are evaluating a person with flu-like symptoms.

Students or staff with influenza-like illness should stay home and not attend school or go into the community except to seek medical care for at least 7 days after the start of the illness or until they are symptom free for 24 hours, whichever is longer.

The school nurses are in the best position to field questions related to protocols, re-admittance to school, etc.

The health department is providing masks to the BOCES so they can be distributed to area schools in an efficient manner.

Sincerely,

Jeanne M. Dangle