



710 Western Avenue, Geneva, IL 60134

As you are aware, the Centers for Disease Control and the Illinois Department of Public Health are reporting widespread flu activity in Illinois. An increase in "Influenza Like Illness" is being recorded in Illinois, Kane County, and Geneva and coincides with what we are seeing in all of Geneva School District's buildings.

It is very difficult to determine if someone who is sick has the H1N1 flu or seasonal flu. With the exception of those who are admitted to a hospital, public health officials are not recommending laboratory tests to confirm the H1N1 virus. Currently, public health officials state that anyone who has the symptoms of flu-like illness should be assumed to have the H1N1 flu and should be treated as such. Doctor's offices may still be doing a rapid test for influenza, but this test does not sub type for H1N1; it may only help the doctor's clinical decision making. Other doctors are treating by symptoms, high risk categories, and exposure.

What does this mean to you? Assume that those who are sick with Influenza Like Illnesses may have the H1N1 flu and act accordingly. Influenza Like Illnesses are defined by the State of Illinois as those illnesses where the signs and symptoms include a fever equal to or greater than 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit with either a cough or sore throat.

At the Geneva Park District, we will continue to follow the recommendations of the Kane County Health Department and the CDC with regard to program participation. At this time it is safe for program participants and staff to attend programs as long as they are healthy. As always, please remember the three C's:

1. Clean your hands: Teach your children to wash their hands often with soap and water. An alcohol-based hand sanitizer is also effective in the absence of soap and water.
2. Cover your cough: Teach your children to cover their coughs and sneezes with tissues. Covering up their coughs or sneezes using the elbow, arm or sleeve instead of the hand when a tissue is unavailable is also a good practice. Also, teach your children not to share personal items like drinks, food or unwashed utensils.
3. Contain illness: Do not send children to school if they are sick. Any children who are determined to be sick while at school will be sent home. Keep sick children at home for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever or do not have signs of a fever without the use of fever-reducing drugs.

You can find comprehensive, updated information related to both the seasonal flu and H1N1 influenza on the websites for the Centers for Disease Control (<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>) and the Kane County Health Department (http://www.kanehealth.com/stop_flu.htm).