

Superintendent Matthew Malone's Letter to Parents Regarding H1N1 (Swine flu)

Posted 09/09/2009 08:56AM



City of Brockton
BROCKTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Matthew H. Malone, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools

Office of the Superintendent
Phone (508) 580-7511 Fax (508) 580-7013
Malone@bpsma.org

September 8, 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Public health experts expect that the H1N1 (swine) flu will return this fall and will spread at the same time as the seasonal flu. Communities across the state are preparing for the advent of the infection, and we in the Brockton Public Schools are working closely with our Brockton Board of Health and the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to help contain the spread of the flu.

Teachers and school nurses will address good hygiene practices by reviewing with children the importance of coughing into their elbows, not their hands, and avoiding touching their noses, mouths or eyes. Our health teachers are working with their classes to promote healthy habits and ways to fight the flu. All of our schools have been provided hand sanitizers for use in classrooms and offices, and our teachers will be stressing with students the importance of hand washing. Our custodial and food service staff is diligent in disinfecting surfaces and monitoring high traffic areas. If we all work together, we can limit the spread of flu in our schools.

We are asking that you reinforce these important health lessons at home and encouraging you to vaccinate your children against both the H1N1 and seasonal flu. We are working with the Board of Health and DPH to make flu shots available in schools. Due to the heightened demand and the uncertainty of the flu vaccine production schedules, we have not yet been advised of when the doses will be available and how many. It is therefore advisable that you contact your physician early to schedule an appointment if possible. We will continue to keep you updated on the Board of Health's plans to vaccinate the public, and we will have some information available at our first Parents' Academy forum at 6:30 p.m. September 17th at the Arnone School.

Schools will remain open throughout flu season. We are asking for your help in keeping our schools healthy: if your child shows symptoms of flu, whether seasonal flu or H1N1, please keep your child at home and notify the school nurse. You should contact your child's doctor for further care and instructions. All individuals with flu-like symptoms should stay home for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever, without using fever-reducing medicines.

Printed on the back of this letter is the Department of Public Health's Flu-Symptom Checklist for Parents.

I wish you and your child a healthy fall.

Sincerely,

Matthew H. Malone, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools