

Good afternoon parents:

Your child received another letter today updating the H1N1 situation at Wilson Central. A few parents have asked if they would be notified if we received official notification of a confirmed case involving one of our students or staff members. At this time, to the best of my knowledge, the district has not received official notification that any of our students has been infected with the H1N1 virus.

However, we have also been told by health officials that testing for H1N1 is now very limited because 90% of those tested have come back positive. We have further been told it is safe to assume at this time that one or more of our students or staff members probably has been infected with the H1N1 virus even though testing was not done on those individuals.

Dr. Wendt's letter (attached and below) addresses our current situation. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns regarding the letter or our current situation at Wilson High.

Thank you,

Dan Johnson

Wilson High School Principal

Dr. Wendt's letter dated 10/21/09

October 2009

Dear Parents,

To date, there has not been an official, confirmed case of H1N1 in the Wilson School District verified through medical testing. However, we have been told through parent communications from their family doctors that the flu-like symptoms experienced by our students are most likely from the H1N1 virus. The cases are so prevalent that the medical community is not testing all of the reported cases. As a result, we do not have written verification at this time. However, we have had verbal verification from more than one source that the cases being referred by parents of the Wilson Central School District to their doctors should be assumed to be H1N1-related. As a result, we ask that parents take appropriate measures regarding the appearance of flu-like symptoms with their children.

School will remain open unless we have a significant amount of student and staff absences. We will be in communication with the Niagara County Health Department, as well as our local BOCES, to determine if such absenteeism should warrant a closure.

I have met with our Director of Buildings and Grounds, Mark Rampado. Mark and his staff are implementing additional measures to clean and disinfect classrooms as we deal with the contagious nature of this virus. We ask, once again, that you discuss proper hand washing as well as sneeze and cough protocol with your child.

In a letter sent to parents earlier this fall, I provided resources for you to obtain more information regarding the H1N1 virus.

Should you have any further questions and or concerns, please contact your building offices.

Sincerely,

Michael S. Wendt, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

**WILSON CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
412 LAKE STREET - P.O. BOX 648
WILSON, NEW YORK**

October 19, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians:

This letter is to inform you that students from the component districts attending the Orleans/Niagara BOCES have confirmed cases of H1N1.

What is 2009 H1N1 (swine flu)?

2009 H1N1 (sometimes called “swine flu”) is a new influenza virus causing illness in people. This new virus was first detected in people in the United States in April 2009.

How does 2009 H1N1 virus spread?

Spread of 2009 H1N1 virus is thought to occur in the same way that seasonal flu spreads. Flu viruses are spread mainly from person-to-person through coughing or sneezing by people with influenza. Sometimes people may become infected by touching something - such as a surface or object - with flu viruses on it and then touching their mouth or nose.

What are the signs and symptoms of this virus in people?

The symptoms of 2009 H1N1 flu virus in people include:

fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue, some may experience vomiting and diarrhea.

Stay home when sick.

Students or staff with H1N1 should stay home for at least 24 hours after they are free of fever (100° F or 37.8° C) or signs of a fever without the use of fever-reducing medicines (e.g., ibuprofen, acetaminophen, etc.). They should stay home even if they are using antiviral drugs.

Hand Hygiene:

Students and staff should practice good hand hygiene to help reduce the spread of flu. Hand hygiene includes traditional hand washing (with soap and warm water, lathering for a minimum of 20 seconds), or the use of hand sanitizers when soap and water are not available and hands are not visibly dirty.

Respiratory hygiene/cough etiquette:

The flu virus spreads from person-to-person in droplets produced by coughs and sneezes. Therefore, it is important that students and staff cover their mouths or noses with a tissue when coughing or sneezing and dispose of the tissue appropriately. If no tissue is available, using the inside of the elbow (or shirtsleeve) to cover the mouth or nose is preferable to using the hands. Always perform hand hygiene after handling dirty tissues or other soiled material.

For more information concerning H1N1 you may visit the Center for Disease Control (www.cdc.gov).

Please contact your school nurse at 751-9341: High School: Sue Dean or Mary Canfield, Ext. 125; Thomas Marks: Anita Pearce, Ext. 160; W. H. Stevenson: Maureen Koroschetz, Ext. 144 should you have any questions or concerns.

Michael S. Wendt, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools