

Centers for Disease Control
Guidelines for Response to Influenza
During the 2009-10 School Year

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued updated guidance for schools for the fall flu season including:

Recommended School Responses for the 2009-10 School Year

Under conditions with similar severity as in spring, 2009:

- **Stay home when sick:**
Those with flu-like illness should stay home for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever, or signs of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medicines. They should stay home even if they are using antiviral drugs. (For more information, see CDC Recommendations for the Amount of Time Persons with Influenza-like Illness Should be Away from Others.)
- **Separate ill students and staff:**
Students and staff who appear to have flu-like illness should be sent to a room separate from others until they can be sent home.
- **Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette:**
The new recommendations emphasize the importance of the basic foundations of influenza prevention: stay home when sick, wash hands frequently with soap and water when possible, and cover noses and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing (or a shirt sleeve or elbow if no tissue is available).
- **Routine cleaning:**
School staff should routinely clean areas that students and staff touch often with the cleaners they typically use.

The CDC guidance document may be viewed at
<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/schools/schoolguidance.htm>