

**Cheney USD 268 Pandemic flu  
Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan  
H1N1**

There has been a nationwide concern regarding the H1N1 virus coming into the 2009-2010 school year. In schools, flu can spread rapidly between students, staff and their families. The biggest concerns with the H1N1 virus is 1) that the largest number of cases, have occurred between the ages of 5 to 24 years and the hardest hit appears to be teenagers, young adults and pregnant women; and 2) that the severity of cases may increase as the disease runs its course.

The purpose of the following plan is to assist in managing the impact of an Influenza pandemic on schools based on two main strategies:

- 1) Reducing the spread of the virus with in school facilities; and
- 2) Sustaining educational functions

**Guidelines for School Closure**

\*School closure will NOT occur unless 1) there is a magnitude of faculty or student absenteeism that interferes with the school's ability to function; or 2) there is a significant change in the risk or danger presented by the flu virus.

\*Should school closure occur, missed time will be made up to the 1116 hours required by the State.

**Symptoms of Flu**

- Fever, 100 degrees or higher
- Cough
- Sore Throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Headache
- Body aches
- Fatigue
- Chills
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea

## Guidelines for Teachers/Para's

\*During the first few moments of class and through out the day monitor for students that do not appear to be feeling well. Should you find a student is ill or exhibiting symptoms of the flu?

- Immediately send the student to the Nurses office for evaluation
- Call the office to inform that the student is on the way to the nurse's office.
  - (Elementary: When possible the student should use the north door of the nurses office)
- should you find that the student has been sent home or he/she has not returned before the end of the class period in which they were sent to the nurses office, clean the desk/work area of that student prior to the next class period

\*Educate, encourage, model and remind students about and allow opportunity for the practice of good hand hygiene:

- washing hands often with soap and water
- use of hand sanitizers (sanitizer dispensers are being placed strategically through
  - out the buildings)

\*Educate, encourage, model and remind students to use good Respiratory Etiquette:

- covering your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze
- if no tissue, coughing or sneezing into your shoulder or elbow (not your hands)

\*Educate, encourage, model and remind students to avoid touching their eyes, noses or mouths

\*Educate and regularly remind students not to share drinking containers (pop cans, bottles, etc) or personal items (lip balm, lip stick, etc)

\*At the end of the day clean or allow a few minutes for the supervision of students to clean their desks/work areas in your classroom.

\*If you become ill, stay home! **Remain home for 24 hours after the fever has broken with out the aide of fever reducers.**

## Guidelines for Nurses/persons designated to care for ill individuals

- All ill individuals should go directly to the nurse's office
- Personal protective equipment should be used when attending to sick people
- If possible, have the ill student/staff member wear a protective mask
- A sick student/staff member should remain in the nurse's office until that person is sent home
- Immediately clean surfaces in the nurses office in which an ill person, prior to his/her departure from school may have touched

### **Guidelines for Custodial Staff**

- Increase diligence in the cleaning of surfaces that have frequent hand contact (keyboards, doorknobs, etc)
- Check and refill empty sanitizer dispensers

### **Guidelines for Administrators**

- Placement of hands sanitizer dispensers in strategic locations through the school buildings
- Plan to cover key staff positions, such as the school nurse, when staff stay home sick
- Develop a school dismissal plan and options for how school work can be continued at home
- Arrange to have flu vaccinations available at school
- Follow flu progression, patterns, out breaks and recommendations through federal, state and local agencies
- Communicate changes in strategies and recommendations to teachers, staff, students and parents as needed

### **Counseling/Nursing Staff**

- Develop/launch campaign against the spread of germs

The above guidelines are based on current flu conditions. These may change or be added to depending on changes in flu course, spread and severity. Most of the above information and guidelines are adaptations of recommendations by the Center of Disease Control or the Pandemic flu policies of other districts.