

The Minnesota Department of Health has changed its reporting criteria for influenza like illnesses. Schools are now asked to wait to report new outbreaks until the school has returned to normal levels of illness absences. The parent notification process that has been used to date will be discontinued until we reach normal levels of illness absences for two weeks. In an effort to keep parents informed the following information will be posted on the District's H1N1 information page and updated weekly:

Script for Web site

As with many Minnesota school districts, influenza-like illness (ILI) is widespread in Edina Public Schools (EPS). Our District notifies parents based on the guidelines provided by the Minnesota Department of Health. These guidelines have recently changed. The Minnesota Department of Health has asked all school districts to hold off on further reporting until student absences due to ILI return to normal. As a result, EPS will discontinue parent notifications until we reach another Minnesota Department of Health reporting threshold. If you would like to stay informed about student absences, Edina Public Schools will provide weekly reports of the schools that have at least 5 percent of the student body absent due to ILI. These updates will be available on this page. If you have any questions, please contact your school's health office.

As always, EPS encourages you and your family to engage in the following basic prevention tactics:

1. Wash hands frequently (use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available)
2. Cough or sneeze into your sleeve
3. Keep hands away from mouth, nose and eyes
4. Stay home when you have a fever of 100 degrees or greater and a cough or sore throat. Do not return to school or other community activities until you have been fever free for 24 hours without taking fever-reducing medication

Student absences due to ILI for the week of Oct. 26-30

Five of the nine public schools had at least 5 percent of the student population absent due to ILI. These schools were Cornelia, Countryside, Creek Valley, Highlands, and Normandale. Another update will be posted next Monday.

Script for School Newsletters

If you want to place a note in your school newsletter regarding the weekly updates for the H1N1 information page, the script below has been created for your use.

As with many Minnesota school districts, influenza-like illness (ILI) is widespread in Edina Public Schools (EPS). Our District notifies parents based on the guidelines provided by the Minnesota Department of Health. These guidelines have recently changed. The Minnesota Department of Health has asked all school districts to hold off on further reporting until student absences due to ILI return to normal. As a result, EPS will discontinue parent notifications until we reach another Minnesota Department of Health reporting threshold. If you would like to stay informed about student absences, Edina Public Schools will provide weekly reports of the schools that have at least 5 percent of the student body absent due to ILI. These updates will be available on the District's [H1N1 information page](#). If you have any questions, please contact the school health office.

As always, EPS encourages you and your family to engage in the following basic prevention tactics:

5. Wash hands frequently (use hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available)
6. Cough or sneeze into your sleeve
7. Keep hands away from mouth, nose and eyes
8. Stay home when you have a fever of 100 degrees or greater and a cough or sore throat. Do not return to school or other community activities until you have been fever free for 24 hours without taking fever-reducing medication