



Monticello Central School District

237 Forestburgh Road, Monticello, NY 12701

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Pandemic Influenza Outbreak/Long-term Closing of School

Note: A Pandemic Flu outbreak differs from other emergency responses as it does not occur suddenly but over an extended period of time. Staff should be trained in recognizing the beginnings of a flu outbreak such as excessive absenteeism or a large number of people reporting flu-like symptoms (coughs, headaches, fevers, etc).

Most likely, notification of a pandemic flu outbreak will be reported by the Sullivan County Department of Health. In the event a flu epidemic does occur, schools will likely be closed for an extended period of time, possibly weeks or months. Some actions to be taken before, during and after a flu epidemic are as follows:

PRE-EVENT

- A. Work with county health department to implement effective infection prevention policies and procedures that help limit the spread of influenza (e.g. promotion of hand hygiene, cough/sneeze etiquette, etc.)
- B. Provide sufficient infection prevention supplies, such as soap, waterless hand hygiene products (containing as least 60% alcohol), tissues, and receptacles for their disposal.
- C. Establish policies and procedures for students and staff sick leave absences unique to a pandemic event (e.g., non-punitive, liberal leave). Establish sick leave policies for staff and students suspected to be ill or who become ill at school. Staff and students with known or suspected pandemic influenza should not remain at school and should return only after their symptoms resolve and they are physically ready to return to school.

AFTER DECLARATION OF A PANDEMIC INFLUENZA EVENT

- A. State Education Department may direct district to close all schools. County Health Officials or Superintendent may also implement short term closing if deemed necessary.
- B. If schools are in session, arrange for transportation of students to their homes. Anyone exhibiting flu-like symptoms should be transported separately to prevent disease transmission on busses.

C. If schools are expected to be closed for an extended period of time, teachers should be allowed into school on limited basis to prepare material to be sent to their students or computer based lessons.

POST-EVENT ACTIONS (Reopening Schools)

A. State Education Department will determine when it is safe to reopen schools

B. Prior to school reopening, janitorial staff shall clean and disinfect likely sources of residual contamination such as sinks, toilets, door knobs, etc and ensure all trash has been removed and new liners are in all trashcans.

C. If school was used for emergency care (i.e. field hospital, triage site, etc), the ENTIRE facility will need to be professionally cleaned.

D. Pandemic flu outbreaks are likely to cause significant fatality levels. Counselors should be available after students return to school for anyone who suffered a loss.