

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The Laboratory Schools, like all schools, continue to receive updates regarding the H1N1 influenza. Please be assured that there have been no confirmed, probable or suspected cases of H1N1 flu in the Laboratory Schools. Our top priority is the health, safety and well-being of our students, faculty and staff members. The school nurse, who works at both Metcalf and U-High, encourages students, faculty, and staff to be diligent in following the 3 C's prescribed by every disease control agency:

- Clean** – wash your hands frequently to prevent the spread of germs;
- Cover** – your cough and sneeze with a tissue or sleeve, not your hand; and
- Contain** – contain your germs, stay home if you are sick.

Each school has distributed an ample supply of hand sanitizer and wipes for student and faculty use, which students are being encouraged to use. Additionally, University staff members will establish frequent cleaning schedules of facilities, especially high-touch surfaces like doorknobs, bathrooms, tables, desks, etc.

Should any of our students develop flu-like symptoms, we will ask that you keep them home until they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications. If, and when, students and/or members of the faculty/staff become ill, they will be isolated to limit the number of people who come in to contact with them. If you have questions or concerns, please call Patty Love, the school nurse, at 438-2435 or contact your family doctor.

Please note that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) no longer recommends school closures based solely upon a confirmed or suspected case of H1N1 Influenza. School closure is not advised unless there is a magnitude of faculty or student absenteeism that interferes with the school's ability to function. I've enclosed a copy of a joint communication that was recently sent out by Chris Koch, Ed.D., State Superintendent of Schools, and Damon Arnold, M.D., Director, Illinois Department of Health. Additional information can be found at the Illinois Department of Public Health at <http://www.idph.state.il.us/> and at the Center for Disease Control (CDC) website at <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>.