



education for today..... and tomorrow

F A R M I N G D A L E P U B L I C S C H O O L S

HOWITT MIDDLE SCHOOL

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Principal
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JOHN LORENTZ
Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Parents,

I am sending this letter home to provide you with information regarding the precautions taken at Howitt to limit the spread of the flu. Sanitizing wipes have been placed near all office phones in the buildings. We have also placed sanitizer pumps in our cafeterias and gyms. Our custodians have been advised to wipe down all hand rails and door knobs. Bathrooms are checked several times during the day to ensure that soap, paper towels and toilet paper are always available. I ask that you encourage your child to use these pumps and sanitary wipes whenever possible. I realize that these precautions alone will not stop the spread of the flu. As a community, we need to work together to prevent the spread of the flu. Please consider keeping your child home from school and taking them to the doctor if they should experience any of the following symptoms:

- Fever over 100 degrees
- Sore Throat
- Cough
- Runny or Stuffy Nose
- Body Aches/Headaches
- Fatigue
- Vomiting
- Diarrhea

If you suspect your child is getting the flu, it is important that he/she does not attend school or go anywhere else, such as group childcare, the mall, or sporting events where other people would be exposed to flu germs. It is also important to teach your child how to reduce his/her risk of getting the flu and protect others from infection:

- Hands should be washed often using soap and hot water for at least 20 seconds.
- Hand sanitizers, gels, rubs, and hand wipes should be used when available. Hand wipes must be disposed of properly. Always read and follow label instructions when using hand sanitizer.
- Children should keep their hands away from their face and avoid touching their mouth, nose, or eyes.
- Contain coughs and sneezes with tissues or by coughing into the inside of the elbow.

People infected with seasonal and novel H1N1 flu can infect others from 1 day before getting sick to 5-7 days after. If your child is experiencing any of the above symptoms and may have contracted the flu, I ask that you keep him/her home until the infectious period has passed.

If you have any questions, please call the school nurse at (516) 752-6544.

Sincerely,

Luis A. Peña
Principal

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