

# PERU CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT


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To: **Parents & Guardians of Students** [via Principals and Directors]  
**Faculty Members** [via Principals and Directors]  
**Support Staff Members** [via Support Operations Supervisors]

From:   
A. Paul Scott, Superintendent of Schools

Date: October 22, 2009

Subject: **Mid-Semester Update on Influenza and Absenteeism**

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I offer my appreciation to the many parents who have kept their children with flu-like illness at home, rather than sending their child to school.

I have one continued request for **parents**, and one continued request for **teachers**:

Please keep children with influenza-like illness **home and away from others** [and out of school] until at least 24 hours after the child is free of fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit , 37.9 degrees Celsius) for 24 hours **without** the use of fever-reducing medications.

**Teachers** will please continue to be as **cooperative as possible** with student and/or parent requests to extend deadlines for projects and other assignments, associated with health-related absences, particularly influenza-like illness.

## Two additional requests for parents:

**First**, it's very important you provide your child's school office with any updates to home telephone numbers, emergency contact numbers and other contact information. We rely on that information to contact you in the event of an urgent need regarding your child.

**Second**, please have a family discussion to consider the best options for your family and your children, in the event of a need to close school or in the event that due to illness, your child needs to be sent home from school.

We will strive to keep the school open to students and functioning in a normal manner throughout this flu season. Precautionary measures associated with H1N1 influenza continue. Our school nurse team gathers absenteeism data across campus on a daily basis. We forward key data elements each day to the Clinton County Health Department, as part of county-wide monitoring that engages each of the county's public school districts.

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Earlier this season, maintenance teams deployed sanitizer gel dispensing stations in school nurse stations, gymnasium areas, cafeterias, computer labs, library media centers that do not have sinks. Custodial teams continue to 'step up' the frequency of checking soap dispensers, paper towel dispensers and gel dispensers across campus. I'll continue to authorize expanded hours for particular custodial team & maintenance team functions, if necessary, to implement these extraordinary actions.

### **Telephone Hotline for Parents and Guardians**

If you have a specific question regarding up-to-date information on flu, you can use the State Department of Health telephone hotline to get a response to your specific question, at **1-800-808-1987**.

### **Helpful Parent and Teacher Reminders to Children**

I'm told the following actions will help slow the spread of H1N1 influenza in our community, and can be important reminders to children:

1. **Wash your hands often** with soap and water. You can set a good example by doing this yourself.
2. **Do not share personal items** like drinks, food or unwashed utensils.
3. **Cover your coughs and sneezes** with **tissues**. Cover up their coughs or sneezes using the **elbow, arm or sleeve** instead of the hand when a tissue is unavailable.
4. **Children should be at home** for at least 24 hours *after* a fever or signs of fever, without using fever-reducing drugs. Keeping a child with a fever at home will reduce the number of people who may get infected.

If the flu becomes more severe, Peru Central **might** need to take additional steps to help prevent the extent of the spread, such as conducting active fever and flu symptom screening of students and staff as they arrive at school or cancelling field trips and other sorts of trips for periods of time. Various government agencies tell me the current flu situation does not warrant school closure.

If the situation regarding the flu changes substantially from what is outlined above, I will send a follow-up letter or use our emergency telephone notification system to provide you with updated information. Meanwhile, Peru Central will work with our region's BOCES, the Clinton County Health Department and other appropriate agencies to help monitor the situation involving the spread of flu.

If you wish to obtain Web-based information, visit [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov), or visit <http://cdc.gov/h1n1flu/> or call 1-800-CDC-INFO for the most current information about the flu. Statewide information is available at [www.nyhealth.gov](http://www.nyhealth.gov) and for more information about flu in our county, visit the Clinton County Health Department at: <http://www.clintoncountygov.com/Departments/Health/CCHDHome.htm>.

On behalf of the school district, I wish all the best to you and to your family!

Copies of this note will be provided to the following individuals:

Parent Organization Leaders [*via Principals*]  
School Nurses  
School Physician  
Town Supervisors [*via FAX*]  
Presidents of Peru CSD Collective Bargaining Units  
District Superintendent for this region's BOCES  
Board of Education