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## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

### MEMORANDUM

To: Dr. Betty Sternberg, Superintendent of Schools  
From: Caroline Baisley, Director of Health  
Subject: Interim guidance for school attendance relative to H1N1  
Date: May 22, 2009

In light of the recent events at Western Middle School and in anticipation of additional activity of illness in the schools, the following information should be referenced in clarifying current recommendations and guidelines for school attendance. The information is consistent with CDC and CT Department of Public Health guidelines and was reviewed by the Greenwich Department of Health, Dr. James R. Sabetta, Director of Infectious Diseases at Greenwich Hospital, and Dr. Toni Salvatore, School Medical Advisor.

- ✓ Students, faculty and staff who experience influenza-like illness (ILI) should stay home and not attend school for ***a minimum of 7 days*** even if symptoms resolve sooner
- ✓ Students, faculty and staff who are *still sick after 7 days* from the onset of symptoms should continue to *stay home from school until* ***at least 24 hours*** after all symptoms have resolved

#### **Symptoms of Influenza-like illness**

Fever (100°F or 37.7°C) with cough or sore throat  
Other symptoms may include – headache, runny or stuffy nose,  
body aches or chills, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea

- ✓ Students, faculty and staff should follow stringent infection control measures to reduce the spread of influenza, including but not limited to:
  - Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue or the crook of your elbow
  - Wash your hands often with soap and water; use alcohol based hand sanitizer if water is not available
  - Try not to touch your mouth, nose or eyes
  - Avoid close contact with people who are sick
  - Stay home from school, work *and other group activities* if you are sick

Parents should be advised to consult with their health care providers if children are experiencing symptoms of the flu. Guidance for assessment and treatment of influenza-like illness has been provided to the local medical community and the physicians are aware of these recommendations for school attendance.