

MAINE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE DISTRICT #15
GRAY ♦ NEW GLOUCESTER

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NEW GUIDELINES FOR RE-ADMITTING STUDENTS AND STAFF AFTER FLU –LIKE SYMPTOMS

The new strain of influenza H1N1 (or “swine flu”) is still circulating in Maine. Because of this, the Maine Center for Disease Control and our Commissioner of Education, Susan Gendron, has instructed all superintendents to strictly adhere to the U.S. Center for Disease Control and the Maine Center for Disease Control guidelines. Their recommendations are as follows:

1. Individuals with fever (100 F or 37.7 C) AND sore throat or cough may have influenza. **These persons should remain home from school for seven days or until symptoms are gone for 24 hours, whichever is longer.**

Individuals who test negative for influenza by a PCR test given at their physician’s office may return to school when asymptomatic.

A rapid antigen test is not an acceptable substitute for the PCR test.

These guidelines will be followed unless an individual has a note from a physician documenting an alternative diagnosis which is supported by laboratory results (ex. strep throat).

2. If an individual has: a) a fever alone, b) vomiting and diarrhea, c) sore throat or new cough, he/she should remain home from school until symptoms are gone for 24 hours.

These recommendations are based on the time period in which persons can shed the virus and are intended to decrease disease transmission in schools.

The link for this information is available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/k12dismissal.htm>



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