

Elkhart USD 218 Pandemic Flu Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan H1N1

The purpose of the Pandemic Flu Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan is to assist in managing the impact of an influenza pandemic on schools based on two main strategies:

- 1) Reducing the spread of the virus within school facilities; and
- 2) Sustaining educational functions.

The Elkhart USD 218 school district administration have been reviewing current Pandemic Flu Plans and have planned for the imminent risk of the H1N1 virus becoming widespread this fall and want to communicate the following recommendations for our schools:

Students and School Staff:

1. **School closure will NOT occur**, unless there is a magnitude of faculty or student absenteeism that interferes with the school's ability to function. School closure will be determined by USD 218 Administration and Board of Education in conjunction with the Morton County Board of Health.
2. **Stay home when you are sick.** Students, faculty and all staff with influenza-like illness (fever over 100° F with cough or sore throat), should stay home and not attend school or go into the community except to seek medical care. The CDC is recommending that those with flu-like illness **stay home until at least 24 hours after their fever is gone, without using fever-reducing medications**, such as Acetaminophen (Tylenol) or Ibuprofen (Motrin). Check with your school nurse or healthcare provider for updated information on specific guidance on when to return to school and watch for updates on the Elkhart District website www.usd218.org and Channel 40.
3. **Avoid close contact with people who are sick.** Students, faculty and staff who appear to have, or develop during the school day, influenza-like symptoms should be isolated promptly in a room separated from other students and staff, and sent home.
4. **Cover your mouth and nose, and wash your hands.** Follow sanitary measures to reduce the spread of influenza, including covering their nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, coughing into their sleeve or elbow, frequently washing their hands with soap and water, or using hand sanitizer if hand washing with soap is not possible.
5. **Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.** Pathogens are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated and then touches his or her eyes, nose or mouth.
6. **Open communication** with student and parents to continue with assignments and coursework, when students are absent from school.

Parents:

1. **Monitor for illness.** Parents and guardians should monitor their school-aged children, every morning for symptoms of influenza-like illness, and should NOT send them to school or to daycare if symptoms (fever over 100° F with cough or sore throat) are present.
2. **Report ALL absences from school.** Call the school and report specific symptoms, disease, or reason student is not in school to assist with symptom/disease surveillance.

3. **Make sure the school has correct contact and emergency numbers to reach you** to allow for prompt pick-up if influenza-like symptoms occur.
4. **Your child will be sent to the health center and a parent/guardian will be contacted to pick up the child immediately** if your child appears to have flu like symptoms while at school.
5. **Aspirin or aspirin-containing products should NOT be administered** to any confirmed or suspected ill case of novel H1N1 influenza, virus infection aged 18 years and younger, due to the risk of Reye's syndrome. For more information visit the CDC website at www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu.
6. **Stay home.** Staying at home means that you should not leave your home except to seek medical care. This means avoiding normal activities, including work, school, travel, shopping, social events, and public gatherings. If your child is ill, with influenza-like symptoms they should not attend alternative childcare or congregate in other neighborhood and community settings. The CDC is recommending that those with flu-like illness **stay home until at least 24 hours after their fever is gone, without using fever-reducing medications**, such as Acetaminophen (Tylenol) or Ibuprofen (Motrin).
7. **Stay informed!** Check your child's book bag daily to monitor for written updates from the school. Check the District Website www.usd218.org, Channel 40, the Whistle Stop Park sign, and the Morton County Website at www.mtcoks.com.

Planning and Response to the possibility of school closure includes the following:

• Business Operations

In the event schools are closed, the USD 218 District Office will stay open if possible. School missed will be made up to the 1116 hours required. The Superintendent, Principals, and each Director would decide who would need to report for work.

The District Health Nurse will handle protection of all working staff & visitors. She will provide all working employees with personal protective equipment and will assist the Superintendent with communication/collaboration from local and state agencies on reopening schools and recommendations to follow.

The Technology Director will assist the Superintendent with updated communication via district website and email lists.

• Building Operations

In case of a pandemic and school closure, only “essential personnel” will be expected to work in his/her respective buildings.

Essential personnel shall be defined as the building principal and the head custodian for each building. The District Maintenance Director and all maintenance employees should report for maintenance.

All reporting personnel would be expected to utilize personal protective equipment as deemed necessary by county authorities.

All buildings should be checked for security daily by the principal and/or head custodian.

If a building was designated and used as a Point of Dispensing site (POD) for the Morton County Health Agency, maintenance would provide assistance as needed to the designated site, as would the building principal and any available custodial staff. In these cases, it would be expected that Morton County authorities would be directing school personnel to appropriate duties. The District Health Nurse will act as liaison between the school and county.

• Communications

Timely and accurate information regarding school closures and reopening will be provided to all school district staff, students and parents through Elkhart District website www.usd218.org, Channel 40, Whistle Stop Park sign, Morton County website www.mtcoks.com, and telephone trees.

Public Information Liaison

Agencies/Contacts

1. Morton County Health Dept. – Rhianna Shaw, Morton County Health Administrator
2. Kansas Department of Education – Dale Dennis, Mark Thompson
3. Kansas Association of School Boards – Tom Krebs
4. Center for Disease Control
5. KDHE

The District Health Nurse will be the liaison between the district and the county. School emergency preparedness plans will be developed collaboratively with the agencies available in our county.

The District will cooperate with table talk discussions to prepare for the crisis. The district will participate in exercises of the community's pandemic plan.

The Superintendent will communicate with the media/families on an as needed basis.

The District Health Nurse will develop, in conjunction with the local health department, a surveillance system that would alert the local health department to a substantial increase in absenteeism among students.

What can you and your family do to find out more?

Log onto http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/general_info.htm or www.mtcoks.com for the most recent advice regarding the virus and how to prepare for a possible pandemic.

If our schools would be forced to close for a period of time because of a pandemic, what are some websites that would be good resources for students learning at home?

Safe Searching, Games, Activities—All ages

<http://www.ala.org/gwstemplate.cfm?section=greatwebsites&template=/cfapps/gws/default.cfm>

<http://www.beritsbest.com/>

<http://home.core.com/web/start/family>

<http://www.looksmart.com/eus1/eus317837/eus317922/r%3f&iabw&>
<http://www.netsmartzkids.org/games/index.htm>
<http://www.wiredkids.org/safesites/index.html>

All Ages—

<http://www.edhelper.com/>
<http://www.kidsreads.com/>
<http://www.learningplanet.com/>
http://www.nasa.gov/audience/for_kids/home/index.html
<http://www.mothers-home.com/activities/sherri2.htm>
<http://www.rif.org/parents/>
<http://www.storiestogrowby.com/>

Primary Age

<http://life.familyeducation.com/baby/toddler/34411.html>
<http://www.noggin.com/index.php>
<http://pbskids.org/rogers/>
<http://www.primarygames.com/>
<http://www.sesameworkshop.org/sesamestreet/>

Preschool-Upper Elementary

<http://www.crayola.com/index.cfm>
<http://disney.go.com/playhouse/today/index.html>
<http://www.funschool.com/>
<http://www.funwithspot.com/>
<http://www.playkidsgames.com/>

Elementary

<http://www.abcteach.com>
<http://disney.go.com/kids/today/index.html>
<http://fun.familyeducation.com/education/extracurricular-activities/33400.html>
<http://www.kidsgames.org/>
<http://www.mathplayground.com/>
<http://www.nationalgeographic.com/kids/>
<http://pbskids.org/>
<http://www.rif.org/readingplanet/>
<http://www.starfall.com/>

Elementary-Middle School

<http://blackdog.net>
<http://www.ltta.ca/>
<http://kids.ot.com/>
<http://www.poetry4kids.com/index.php>
<http://www.funbrain.com/>
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/kids/>

Upper Elementary-Middle School

<http://www.cyberkids.com/>

http://www.mce.k12tn.net/units/units_with_books.htm

<http://www.midcoast.com.au/~ttc/worksheet1.html>

<http://zone.msn.com/en/root/word.htm>

<http://www.sikids.com/>

Upper Elementary-High School

<http://www.c3.lanl.gov/mega-math/>

<http://www.ceismc.gatech.edu/busyt>

<http://www.coolmath.com/>

http://www.marcopolo-education.com/teacher/lesson_plan_content_index.aspx?ResourceType=2

<http://www.madsci.org/>

<http://www.memory.loc.gov/ammem/cwphtml/cwphome.html>

<http://school.discovery.com/brainboosters/>

<http://www.visualfractions.com/>

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