

Office of the Superintendent

Bradley J. Rieger, Ph.D., Superintendent



October 30, 2009

Dear Parents:

An update on H1N1... At the district level we are monitoring student and staff attendance in each school. Several schools experienced a spike in student illness during the week of October 19-23, but student attendance has since returned to expected levels. This rolling effect associated with absenteeism might be a pattern that school districts experience throughout the winter.

Since the start of the school year there has been a concerted effort from everyone to reduce the spread of flu-like illness. Students are washing hands frequently and using the Dracula technique to block coughs and sneezes. Parents are keeping students home when flu-like symptoms have appeared. Custodians have focused their efforts on cleaning desks and other hard surfaces. As a district we are deemphasizing perfect attendance and teachers are providing students with flexibility on make-up work/tests.

I have conveyed to Toledo-Lucas County Health Department officials that we will partner with them to provide after-school vaccination clinics. The after-school format allows parents to fully participate in the process. It is preferable to have parents alongside their child/teenager to minimize anxiety leading-up to the vaccination, handle any adverse reactions after the shot is given, and avoid inadvertent mistakes.

We are waiting for the Toledo-Lucas County Health Department to inform us when the H1N1 vaccine will be available for Sylvania students at our school sites. Health Department personnel are in the process of inoculating 88,000 students in Lucas County. For more H1N1 information, you can visit www.flu.gov or contact the Health Department at 419-213-4100.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bradley J. Rieger".

Brad Rieger
Superintendent