

Ball-Chatham CUSD #5 Archived Parent Alerts

2009-2010 School Year

A message from Sangamon County Health Department Director Jim Stone and Superintendent Bob Gillum:

Dear Ball-Chatham Parents:

Thank you for following our request to detail the specific symptoms when reporting illnesses of your children. The information has been shared with the Sangamon County Health Department. The medical community, including the Illinois Department of Public Health, has assured your administration that they are effectively monitoring health status and following prescribed procedures.

Please continue to encourage your children to practice the 3 C's – clean, cover and contain.

SchoolReach Announcement 8/31/09

Good Afternoon from Superintendent of Schools, Bob Gillum.

The purpose of my message is two-fold. First let me assure you that we are working with the Sangamon County Health Department for guidance on all disease control. Earlier today I was able to confirm with the County Health Department that Sangamon County has not experienced heightened reporting of influenza-like illnesses. We find it important to share this information as rumors have been spread that have provoked a number of households to keep children home as a precautionary measure.

If your child is ill we do not want them in attendance and encourage medical care and treatment. In fact to enhance our method of accuracy, in cooperation with the County, we are asking that you list the symptoms of the illness when reporting your child out sick. Secondly, please know that we are monitoring health reports with regularity, and at this time, illnesses, including cases of Influenza "A", have been reported.

Our website has been updated with our most current procedural information. You are encouraged to check the website regularly for changes. We are in contact with the County health officials and are following all prescribed guidelines.

Thank you for allowing me to dispel any rumors that may exist. We hope this message puts a calm to any concerns you may have.

H1N1 Flu Information

As the school year begins, we want to reassure students, parents, teachers and staff that the safety of our students is Ball-Chatham's first priority. Even though the district has no confirmed cases at this time, by issuing guidance and planning now, our schools will be prepared for any future flu outbreaks. Below are guidelines issued by the State and those that the Ball-Chatham School District advises:

Stay home when sick. Students and staff with flu-like illness should stay home for at least 24-hours after they no longer have a fever, or signs of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medicines.

Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette. Students and staff will step up basic health hygiene practices like the 3 Cs – clean, cover and contain. Taking these precautions is vital to limiting the spread of illness.

Clean – wash your hands frequently to prevent the spread of germs.

Cover - your cough or sneeze with your elbow or sleeve.

Contain – students and staff should stay home if they're sick.

Separate ill students and staff. B-C Schools will watch for students and staff who appear to have flu-like illness and those who do will be sent to a separate room away from others until they can go home.

Routine cleaning. School staff will routinely clean areas that students and staff touch often with the cleaners typically used by our schools.

School dismissal. We will work closely with our local health officials to balance the risks of flu in our community with the disruption school closures will cause in both education and the wider community. The length of time our schools would be dismissed will vary depending on the type of dismissal as well as the severity and extent of illness. Should the severity of H1N1 flu increase this fall, we will actively screen students and staff for fever and other symptoms upon arrival at school; have those at high-risk for influenza complications stay home; and extend the amount of time those who are ill to stay home.

More information can be accessed by clicking the links below:

Ball- Chatham Parent information handout

Sangamon County Department of Public Health - www.scdph.org