

Redeemer Lutheran School
Kokomo, IN
2009-2010 School Year

GUIDELINES FOR H1N1 FLU

This is the recommended Redeemer Lutheran School response for the 200-2010 school year in the event of H1N1 flu or other flu outbreaks:

General Procedures:

1. **Stay Home When Sick:** Those with flu-like illness should stay home for **AT LEAST** 24 hours after you no longer have a fever, or sign of fever, without the use of fever-reducing drugs. You should stay home even if you are using antiviral drugs. You should also stay at home until you are 24 hours free from vomiting or diarrhea issues. (Please note that if your child does return prior to the 24 hours, we will be taking their temperature upon returning to school.)
2. **Students and Staff will be separated:** Students and staff who appear to have flu-like symptoms will be sent to a designated room until you can be sent home.
3. **Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette:** The basic foundations of preventions for influenza are to stay home when sick; wash hands frequently with soap and water, and to cover noses and mouths with a tissue and/or elbow when coughing or sneezing. The tissue is to be immediately discarded in a trash can.
You are to wash your hands for 15-20 seconds with soap and warm water. Hand sanitizers are to be available in each classroom, the school office, cafeteria, computer lab and gymnasium when hand washing is not possible.
4. **Leave Nose, Eyes, and Mouth Alone:** This influenza is thought to be spread by touching infected surfaces and then touching your nose, eyes and mouth. Try to keep from touching these areas of your body.
5. **Routine Cleanings:** The teaching staff, other staff, along with the custodial staff, will routinely disinfect commonly and often touched areas such as doorknobs, desks, and tables.
6. **Early Treatment of High-Risk Students and Staff:** Individuals at high risk for influenza complications who become ill with flu-like illness should speak with your health care provider as soon as possible. People at high risk include those who have diabetes or asthma, compromised immune systems, or have neuromuscular diseases. Please contact your health provider in these or other instances of at-risk conditions.

We all need to work together to keep this flu at bay. Please follow the above guidelines. Do not send your child to school if they have not felt good over the weekend, or just to see how they feel the longer they are up. They need to stay at home.

IN THE EVENT OF INCREASED SEVERITY OF DISEASE: (In the event our absenteeism of our students or staff grows higher)

Active Screening: Students and staff will be checked for fever and other flu-like symptoms upon arrival to school in the morning. Students and staff exhibiting these symptoms will be isolated from the other population and sent home as soon as possible. School staff will be vigilant in identifying students and other staff who become ill during the day.

High-Risk Student and Staff Members Stay Home: Individuals at high-risk of flu complications are to talk to your health care provider about staying home from Redeemer Lutheran School when the flu strain seems to be actively infecting others. Homework and assignments will be transmitted through phone calls, e-mails, and Fast Direct. You will need to contact the school for textbooks and let the school know when you will be by to pick them up. We will bring them to your car.

Students With Sick or Ill Household Members Stay Home: Students and staff members who have an ill household member should stay home for five days from the day the first household member becomes ill. This is the time period you will most likely get sick yourself.

Increase Distance Between Individuals While at Redeemer Lutheran School: Staff members will do what they can to create distance between students within the classroom. They will cancel classes with others classrooms, open windows and the like.

Extend The Period For Ill Persons To Stay At Home: If the influenza severity increases, individuals with flu-like illness are to stay home for at least 7 days even if you have no more symptoms. Those with flu-like illness should stay home for at least 24 hours after you no longer have a fever, are vomiting or have diarrhea. This is without any fever-reducing medicine. You should stay home even if you are taking antiviral drugs.

Daily Precautions:

When a confirmed case of H1N1 has been reported at Redeemer Lutheran School, the students and staff will:

- A staff member will dispense hand sanitizer as students enter the building.
- Classrooms will review daily the proper coughing and sneezing procedures.
- Ample supplies of tissues and hand sanitizer will be readily available.
- Classroom seating arrangements will increase distance between children.
- When possible, windows will be opened maintaining a 68 degree minimum and an 80 degree maximum temperature.
- Common areas of the building (i.e. bathrooms, gymnasium, cafeteria, computer lab, etc.) will receive additional cleaning and sanitation attention.
- Students exhibiting flu-like symptoms will be actively screened for fever.
- Students with a fever will be quarantined until parents can pick them up.
- Students are to drink milk with a straw.
- Hand sanitizer will be dispensed as the students enter the cafeteria.

Redeemer Lutheran School H1N1 Closures: Redeemer Lutheran School officials will work closely with health officials to determine any closings. The length of any closing will vary depending on the severity and extent of the illness currently experienced. (This could come because of a large number sent home with flu-like illness or because the number of students and staff affected reach 20 % or higher.)

A dismissal of 5 days minimum would be the first official dismissal level. Reassessment will be made at the conclusion of the 5 days as to whether or not classes would resume after this period. The building will be made available to teachers to continue providing instruction through other means.

CONTINUING EDUCATION IN EVENT OF DISMISSAL:

In the event the school is closed due to flu-like illness, the following procedures will be put into place:

1. Staff will put together textbooks and supplies for parents to come and pick up.
2. You will contact the school and let them know when you will be by to pick up those textbooks, if your child(ren) do not have them at home. (The times for pick-up will only be in the AM hours from 8:00-12:00. You will need to make arrangements for books to be picked up during that time frame. When you contact the office with a time, we will be waiting at the front door with those textbooks.
3. Get on Fast Direct everyday to get an update on assignments. Your child(ren) will be required to get any assigned homework finished just like a regular class.
4. Drop off daily completed home work in the drop box at the front of the school any time during the day. Teachers will pick up and grade daily. (While it is understandable that this is an inconvenience, the Department of Education will allow us to count the days as school days in the event of this type of emergency. We MUST show that learning is still taking place.)
5. Check the website daily for updates.

Please note: Any school closure would occur with the input of public health officials. The actions and decisions or area township school will also be considered as related to our Redeemer Lutheran needs.

ALL H1N1 influenza cases will be reported to the Howard County Health Department.