



School Procedures and Protocol Related To Influenza A (H1N1) Virus

Based on Indiana State Health Department
and Center for Disease Control and Prevention Guidelines

*Information is subject to change. For the most up-to-date information,
go to the EVSC website at evscschools.com*

The Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation schools are following guidelines established by the Indiana State Department of Health (<http://www.in.gov/isdh/24572.htm>) and the national Center for Disease Control and Prevention (<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>) regarding confirmed or probable cases of the Influenza A (H1N1) Virus. Local physicians and hospitals work in conjunction with state and local health officials in making those determinations and diagnoses. Any findings of confirmed or probable cases as defined by the State Board of Health or CDC will be communicated to the school district.

Health records are protected under the HIPAA Privacy Rule and therefore, specific information concerning students and teachers will not be released. However, if any confirmed cases are reported, these findings will be communicated to our families. The district will then follow state and CDC recommended guidelines.

There are currently no confirmed or probable cases of the Influenza A (H1N1) Virus in the EVSC.

General Policy on Prevention

- The recommended course of action is to be alert to symptoms (fever, cough, sneezing, muscle aches, for example), wash hands frequently, and stay home and consult with your doctor if you are ill. Please know that in addition to the H1N1 flu, there also are cases of seasonal flu and allergies occurring.
- Teachers and others in the schools will remind students frequently of basic hygiene that can help prevent the spread of germs such as washing hands frequently; sneezing or coughing into a tissue or arm; keep hands away from eyes, nose and mouth; and staying home if you are ill.
- As long as schools are open, the school instructional day and all before-, during- and after-school activities will proceed according to the regular schedule.
- Students K-12 and staff members will be encouraged to wash their hands or use a hand sanitizer often during the school day. Hand sanitizer is available in all middle and high schools. Elementary schools have been placed on a prescribed hand-washing regimen at certain times of the day. Hand sanitizers are not being used in the elementary schools, due to the potential hazards of the alcohol-based products.
- Teachers will clean often touched areas of their classrooms with sanitizing wipes periodically throughout the day.
- The schools will continue normal cleaning routines in the buildings and implement additional cleaning routines for buses. Note: The virus does not survive for extended periods of time on surfaces.
- Students or staff who feel ill (flu symptoms OR any other symptoms) are strongly encouraged to stay home and consult with their doctors.
- Students and staff members who exhibit flu-like symptoms during the school day will be seen by the school nurse or other school official and their families will be notified.

- Field trips will be determined on a case-by-case basis using the most recent guidelines from the Vanderburgh County Health Department, Indiana State Health Department and the CDC. Families always may elect not to send their students on a field trip.

Procedures For Possible School Closures And Re-Openings Related To Influenza A (H1N1) Virus

(Based on Indiana State Department of Health and CDC Guidelines)

- The Evansville Vanderburgh School Corporation will comply with Indiana State Department of Health and Center for Disease Control mandates and regulations.
- Initial information about this influenza virus had recommended school closures if a confirmed case was found in that school population. Now, however, new information from the CDC states that the severity of this virus is comparable to seasonal influenza. The CDC is no longer recommending closures unless there is a high absentee rate that interferes with the school's ability to function.
- If however, local and state health agencies say a closure of our schools is warranted, a closure notification message, through the EVSC's family notification system – Connect-ED – will be sent out immediately to the "emergency" call list which contacts families and employees through every method they have identified. A letter outlining details of the closure will also be sent home with students.
- An email message outlining the closure will also be sent to local businesses through the Evansville Chamber of Commerce and to media outlets.
- If closure of a school is warranted, it will include the entire school day and all before- and after-school programs, daycare, evening programs, performances, extra-curricular activities, athletic events and practices, and use of the building by outside groups, in order to provide social distancing and prevent the spread of the virus.
- Due to the social distancing prevention method, staff will not be asked to report to work before the committed time frame of closure set by the Indiana State Department of Health and/or CDC.

Procedures for re-opening

- If no additional confirmed or probable cases are identified among students or staff in the school affected for a period of seven consecutive calendar days, the school (or the district) may re-open with approval from the Vanderburgh County Health Department or the Indiana State Board of Health.
- If there are additional confirmed or probable cases among students or staff in the school affected the EVSC will seek guidance from local and state health officials regarding re-opening.