



PANDEMIC FLU AND YOU

DEALING WITH ILL STUDENTS

Scenario:

- Students may come down with pandemic influenza like symptoms while at school.
- There may be a need to temporarily isolate ill students before sending them home to prevent the spread of disease.
- There may be a need to transport ill students home or to a medical facility if and when parents/guardians are unavailable.

Recommendations:

1. Each school should use existing student sickness surveillance procedures or establish procedures for identifying and reporting students with pandemic influenza like illness.
2. Develop emergency contact procedures to notify the ill student's parents or guardians and arrange to have the student sent home as soon as possible.
3. Consider designating a school bus for transporting ill students if parents or guardians are unavailable.
4. Establish procedures for sending ill students to a local hospital/clinic for diagnosis and treatment if necessary.
5. Establish procedures to minimize the spread of disease and to protect students and teachers from getting ill.
 - Discourage students from sharing food or utensils, especially with students who are ill.
 - Encourage all students and staff to wash their hands thoroughly with soap and water before eating and before touching their eyes, noses or mouths.
 - Advise ill students and staff to cough and sneeze into tissue or sleeves and not use their hands.
 - Advise all students and staff to stay home if they are sick.
 - Staff (such as school nurses) who must come within 3 feet of a sick student should consider wearing disposable facemasks.
 - Consider stockpiling alcohol based hand sanitizers, hand-washing soap, tissue and disposable facemasks.