

TO: Tazewell County Schools and Daycare Centers

DATE: October 7, 2009

FROM: Susette Litwiller RN BSN
Nursing Supervisor, Communicable Disease

SUBJECT: Reporting of Influenza Like Illness (ILI)

2009 H1N1 influenza virus continues to circulate throughout the country, and is currently causing outbreaks in schools and daycare settings. Continued circulation is expected this fall and winter in every county in Illinois, and collaboration between schools and local health departments will continue to be an important component of our efforts to minimize the impact of influenza on health and education.

The first attachment is a form to be used for ongoing monitoring of absenteeism and dismissals. This form is also available in electronic spreadsheet format. We ask your assistance with surveillance of ILI with this form. Influenza like illness is defined as a fever $\geq 100^{\circ}$ F **and** a cough **or** a sore throat. The data should be reported weekly via fax or email to the contact information below.

The second attachment is to be used when excessive rates of ILI are occurring in the school or daycare. Excessive influenza activity is defined as ≥ 5 percent of the student body (at least 10-15 students) being seen by the school nurse or designated person on a single day.

Absenteeism by itself is not a measure of influenza activity. To determine the significance of an increase in absenteeism, information about the reason for absence should be collected when a parent calls to report their child will not be attending school. An alternative would be to call students' homes to determine the reason for the absence.

We appreciate your assistance in helping us to control communicable disease in our community.

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