

May 22, 2009

Dear Parents, Family, and Faculty,

Today we are implementing new recommendations from the Massachusetts Public Health Department. These directions come to our school from the Peabody Health Department and we are mandated to follow them. Please help us to implement and continue our fight against the spread of infectious disease.

1. Review proper hand washing and cough etiquette with your children, to assist in preventing of the spread of the disease.
2. Assess all children and other family members for symptoms of influenza before sending them to school.
3. All school staff should assess themselves for symptoms of influenza before reporting to work, and should stay home if they are symptomatic.
4. Students or staff, who appear ill with fever of unknown origin, should be promptly isolated and sent home. All such students and staff should remain out of school for at least 7 days even if their symptoms resolve sooner. Students and faculty who are still sick at 7 days should continue to stay home from school until at least 24 hours after they have completely recovered.
5. If a child or adult is ill with other symptoms, other than fever should stay home at least one day to observe how the illness develops and until they are completely well for 24 hours.
6. For review: Influenza Like Illness (ILI) – may include fever plus cough, sore throat or runny nose. It may also include other symptoms such as vomiting or diarrhea.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of this mandate.

Sincerely,

Eileen Braley, RN