



Vernon Township School District

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*John B. Alfieri, Ed. D., Superintendent of Schools
Barbara Linkenheimer, Assistant Superintendent of Schools
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November 17, 2009

Dear VTSD Parents/Guardians:

As the winter season approaches, I write to inform you of a change in practice within the Vernon Township Public Schools. In keeping with the recommendations of the NJ State Department of Education, the Sussex County Departments of Education and Health, and the recent decisions of our neighboring communities, we will be suspending the recognition of any Perfect Attendance Awards for this academic year.

There are some students who strive to achieve perfect attendance and that is an admirable achievement – one which Vernon has recognized in different manners in each of our schools. However, if an individual is ill, whether it be a staff member or student they should stay home. We would not want to encourage any parent or student to come to school when illness is present. Your cooperation in this matter will be critically important as we move into the influenza season over the next several months.

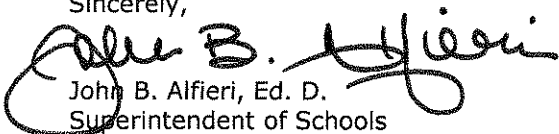
Currently, we do not have a single confirmed case of H1N1 in any of our schools. Since September, we have closely monitored ADA (Average Daily Attendance) in all six of our schools. Until this past week, we were operating in the mid to high 90's in terms of students being present for school. However, in the past three school days, Walnut Ridge Primary School has reported a higher than usual number of absences. They have a number of students with "flu-like symptoms" have been kept home by their parents – again, there has not yet been a confirmed case of H1N1. We all appreciate the decision of these parents to keep their children home if they exhibit one of more of the symptoms.

According to the CDC, like seasonal flu, symptoms of H1N1 infections can include:

- fever, which is usually high, but unlike the seasonal flu, high fever is sometimes not present at all with H1N1
- cough, runny nose or stuffy nose
- sore throat, body aches
- headache, chills
- fatigue or tiredness, which can be more extreme with H1N1
- diarrhea and vomiting, sometimes, but more commonly seen than with seasonal flu

In closing, please remember to keep students home for 24 hours until they are fever free without the use of medication(s). We thank you in advance for your cooperation and understanding as we maintain an active partnership in protecting the health and safety of the entire community. Please contact me, any member of our administrative team, or one of our dedicated school nurses if you have a question or concern.

Sincerely,



John B. Alfieri, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools

JBA/rg

c: All VTSD Staff Members
VTSD Board of Education Members
Dr. Rosalie S. Lamonte, Executive County Superintendent
Dr. John Fisher, VTSD Physician