

September 16, 2009

Dear School Administrators and Nurses:

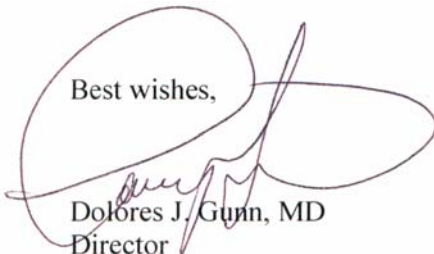
While we understand your dedication to provide a safe environment for all students in your school, we respectfully request that students returning to school following flu-like illnesses not be required to provide doctors' notes for re-admittance. The medical systems throughout St. Louis County are reporting an influx of children who are returning to the emergency rooms and clinics specifically for doctors' notes.

At this time, the CDC recommendations require that children return to school *only* when they have been fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducers. In light of the H1N1 pandemic, suspension of your school re-admittance policies will help ensure that emergency rooms and clinics are free to serve children and families who are sick.

As a precaution, please again remind parents:

- If your child is sick, keep the child at home until 24 hours after their fever has resolved without the use of Tylenol, Motrin, or any other fever reducers. Once fever subsides, students can return to school safely.
- If a student does have an influenza-like illness, your provider may choose to treat with Tamiflu within the first 48-hours of symptoms.
- Rest, Fluids, healthy eating habits and physical activity help to boost one's immune system to both prevent illness and to reduce the severity of illness.
- Good hygiene habits, such as frequent hand washing and respiratory etiquette should be strongly encouraged.

We look forward to continuing our commitment to keeping you abreast of this year's flu pandemic, and partnering with you in ensuring our children's health.

Best wishes,

Dolores J. Gunn, MD
Director