January 13, 2020

MEMORANDUM

TO: All Principals

FROM: Christine M. Moore, Assistant Superintendent
Student Services and Exceptional Student Education

RE: Influenza Precautions and Materials

As you know, cases of influenza for this year’s flu season have been increasing nationwide. According to the Department of Health in Florida, flu activity levels remained above levels observed during the previous two flu seasons. The DOH-Florida recommends sick individuals stay home until fever-free for 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medication) and that all individuals exercise good handwashing practices. Please share the following everyday preventative actions from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with your staff and parents via Edline, newsletters, announcements, etc.:

1. Avoid close contact with sick people;
2. Cover nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing;
3. Wash your hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer;
4. Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth as germs spread this way; and
5. Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs like the flu.

In order to ensure good handwashing practices, wash hands with soap and warm water for 20 seconds, when soiled and/or look dirty, feel dirty, and/or after specific activities such as the following:

1. Coughing, sneezing, blowing nose;
2. Using the restroom;
3. Participating in indoor/outdoor play activities;
4. Beginning of each day, when children come into the classrooms;
5. Before and after mealtimes/snacks, etc.; and
6. End of the day before leaving for home.

The Florida Department of Health has developed a handwashing video which may be accessed here. I have also hyperlinked to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention handwashing site. The CDC website offers many useful tips and has many of their materials translated into various languages for your use.

The Florida Surgeon General is encouraging all unvaccinated residents to get their flu shot as soon as possible. More information can be obtain at http://brevard.floridahealth.gov/newsroom/2020/01/flu-2020-01-09.html.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

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