



Frances M. Rabinowitz, Superintendent of Schools
Hamlet M. Hernandez, Assistant Superintendent
Marie Jordan-Whitney, Assistant Superintendent

November 4, 2009

Dear Staff Member:

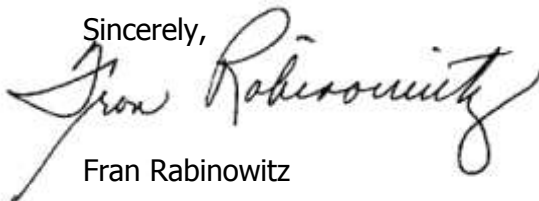
The purpose of this letter is to update you on the H1N1 flu and vaccination program. Medical professionals predict that the H1N1 Flu strain will be pervasive this fall and winter; however, as of right now, we do not have an unusual number of absences. Nevertheless, Hamden Public Schools continues to collaborate with the Quinnipiack Valley Health District (QVHD) on the many facets associated with the H1N1 virus. To date, Hamlet Hernandez and Bill McGraw proactively developed a Pandemic Preparation Paradigm which serves as a guide which the school system will use to make critical and timely decisions should a significant outbreak occur within our schools or community.

In addition to the Pandemic Preparation Paradigm, the District continues to carefully coordinate with QVHD on the vaccination program. While Hamden Public Schools is not responsible for the public vaccination program, the vaccination of consenting students will take place in our schools as the H1N1 vaccine becomes available. Currently, we continue to receive consent forms from our parents and guardians in preparation for the vaccination program. Also, Bill McGraw and Hamlet Hernandez recently met with building principals to update them on measures to be taken if there is an H1N1 outbreak in Hamden Public Schools as well as procedures for H1N1 vaccination.

Again, the safety of students and staff is our concern and we continue to ask that you take any precautions necessary, including staying home if you are experiencing flu-like symptoms. The District will continue to monitor daily attendance of staff and students to ascertain if any "upward trends" are occurring in the District. We will keep you informed if there are any unusual attendance trends in our schools.

In closing, please be assured that we continue to monitor a variety of factors in order to make timely decisions which are in the best interest of our students and staff. Do not hesitate to ask your school nurse or principal any questions which you may have related to the flu.

Sincerely,



Fran Rabinowitz