

SUFFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Parents and Guardians:

As you may be aware, non-polio enteroviruses are very common viruses. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with information regarding the Enterovirus D68 and outline for you the strategies the district employs to reduce the transmission of infection among students and staff. As always, the health and well-being of all of our students and community members remains the highest priority of the district.

Most people who get infected with non-polio enteroviruses do not get sick or they may have mild illness, like the common cold. However, children and teenagers are more likely to get infected and become sick because they do not yet have immunity from previous exposures to the viruses. In addition, children with asthma, or compromised immune systems, may be at higher risk for respiratory illness and parents are encouraged to discuss this issue with their medical providers. The school district has been in communication with Dr. Segool, the District Medical Advisor, and Mr. Michael Pirro, Director of Public Health for the North Central District Health Department, and they confirm that the strategies we outline below are aligned with best practice relative to minimizing the transmission of the enterovirus.

To help protect yourself and others from non-polio enterovirus infections we encourage the following universal precautions:

- washing your hands often with soap and water;
- avoiding close contact such as touching and shaking hands with people who are sick;
- covering mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing; and
- keeping your child home from school when he/she is sick

Additionally, the district maintains a cleaning protocol in all of our buildings to disinfect frequently touched surfaces to ensure a safe and healthy environment.

More information regarding the Enterovirus D68 can be found on the following links:

<http://www.cdc.gov/non-polio-enterovirus/about/prevention-treatment.html>
<http://www.cdc.gov/non-polio-enterovirus/about/EV68-infographic.html>

Thank you for working with the school district to keep our children healthy and well and focused on learning. If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact the building principal, the school nurse, or my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Karen Baldwin'.

Karen Baldwin, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools