



CARMEL CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

ANDY IRVIN
Superintendent of Schools

January 25, 2019

Dear Parents and Staff:

As you are aware, influenza has continued to be an issue throughout the country, our state and the region. Currently, we are aware of an increasing number of cases of students with flu-like symptoms reporting to the nurse's office in our schools. District representatives have kept in contact with the Putnam County Department of Health and will continue to work closely with and take our direction from them on this matter.

Putnam County Department of Health urges you to consider vaccination for you and your child(ren), if you have not already done so. **Your pediatrician may still be offering flu vaccine. The Putnam County Department of Health also offers flu vaccine. You may also contact the Department of Health to schedule an appointment at 845 808-1332.**

In addition, Health Department officials recommend that parents and guardians take several steps. These include keeping your children home if they exhibit flu-like symptoms including fever 100 F or higher. Students should stay home for at least 24 hours after they are fever free or signs of a fever without the use of fever-reducing medicine.

We urge you to remind your children about healthful habits. Recommendations include teaching your children:

- To wash hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds
- To cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or by coughing into the inside of the elbow.
- To dispose of used tissues properly and promptly after use.

For further information you can refer to Centers for Disease Control web site at <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/takingcare.htm/> and the NY State Department of Health at <http://www.health.ny.gov> In addition, we have provided this information on our website at <http://www.carmelschools.com> under Departments>Nurses Notes.

We take this matter seriously and are working with the Putnam County Department of Health to provide the best possible information to our families and staff members. Additionally, our Maintenance and Food Services Departments continue to use disinfectants in their cleaning solution and have stepped up the cleaning of our facilities. School nurses have tightened protocols and are diligently monitoring children and staff.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

Cordially,

Andy Irvin
Superintendent of Schools

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