



Suzanne E. McLeod, Superintendent of Schools
Union-Endicott Central School District
1100 E. Main St.
Endicott, NY 13760
Telephone: 607-757-2111

October 29, 2009

Flu update for Union-Endicott Parents

Dear Parents,

The flu made its unwelcome presence felt in U-E beginning last week. All U-E schools have been reporting cases of flu-like symptoms, with the high school having the most. Yesterday, the student absences began to dramatically decrease at the high school and middle schools. We hope this is the beginning of a good trend.

We are unsure as to why the high school has been hit the hardest. From a parent perspective, teens may share some behaviors that put them more at risk for illness. Many teens are “night owls” and may be behind on their sleep, apt to skip meals, or to share food and drinks with their friends. Teens may often skip meals or share kisses with a boy/girl friend.

Please be assured that U-E custodians are working hard to make sure that our buildings are well-cleaned and that common surfaces are disinfected. Students are reminded frequently to wash their hands and use hand sanitizer. We are sending sick children home, but if you know your child is ill in the morning, please do not send him/her to school.

Health Department HINI Clinic forms will be sent to your homes next week: elementary kids will backpack them and JFS/UEHS will mail letters to parents on behalf of each student. The attached polling form will help the Health Department know how many U-E students to expect at the evening clinic. Please return these forms to the building where your child attends. Pre-school aged children also may be included in the clinic, however, please make a notation on your student’s polling form with preschooler’s name(s) written in.

Finally, we are sharing a chart that we came across titled, “**Know the Difference between a Cold/HINI/Flu Symptoms**” from Binghamton University. I believe the chart was assembled from various sources. However, it does provide a quick reference for comparing symptoms of these three viruses.

According to recent talks with the local Health Department, there may be more than one cycle of the flu this year. Each cycle must run its course and may differ slightly from the previous cycle. Hopefully, we can focus our energy this winter on maintaining healthy habits.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Suzanne E. McLeod'.

Suzanne E. McLeod
Superintendent of Schools