



## Genoa-Kingston Community Unit School District 424

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*Dr. Scott E. Wakeley*  
*Superintendent*

October 14, 2009

Dear Genoa-Kingston Schools Parents, Staff, and Community:

As you are probably aware there have been confirmed cases of H1N1 flu reported across the United States, including Illinois, in the last few weeks. Our school works closely with local, state, and national health agencies to investigate any illnesses and/or infections. Both the seasonal flu and the H1N1 flu are characterized by fever (100° or more), sore throat, cough, body aches, headaches, chills, and fatigue. Some may also experience nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Some GK students have experienced a flu-like illness. However, the DeKalb County Health Department **has not received any confirmed cases of H1N1 within the GK School District.** The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention state that most people with 2009 H1N1 flu have had mild illness and have not needed medical care and the same is true of seasonal flu. However, the flu can be serious, especially in children younger than 2 years old and targeted adults and children of any age who have certain chronic medical conditions. These conditions include asthma or other lung problems, diabetes, weakened immune systems, kidney disease, heart problems and neurological and neuromuscular disorders.

The CDC recommends that adults and children get a seasonal flu vaccine and that children and targeted adults get a 2009 H1N1 vaccine. Both H1N1 and seasonal flu are thought to spread from person to person through coughs and sneezes of people sick with the flu or by touching something with flu viruses on it and then touching their mouth, nose, or eyes. As a result, it is important to pay attention to the everyday steps to prevent the spread of germs, including:

- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue and throw the used tissue in the trash.
- Wash hands often with soap and water. Also, use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- If someone in the household is sick, try to keep the sick person in a separate room from others in the household, if possible.
- Keep surfaces like bedside tables, bathroom surfaces, kitchen counters, and toys for children clean.

*Preparing students to excel and contribute to their community*

Because of how the flu is thought to be spread, the district has taken the following extra measures to combat the possible virus:

- Classrooms are cleaned with an EPA registered disinfectant cleaning product, including all door handles, table/desk tops, key boards, sinks, etc. All touch surfaces are cleaned.
- The same product and process is done in school libraries, computer labs, music rooms, bathrooms and all GK facilities.

Obviously, anyone with flu-like symptoms should stay home until the symptoms are gone for at least 24 hours. However, the DeKalb County Health Department, the CDC, and the Genoa-Kingston Schools administration do not recommend keeping healthy students home. **Healthy students should be at school.** We will update the District website with important health information.

For prevention tips and other health-related information, please visit the Illinois Department of Public Health online at [http://www.idph.state.il.us/h1n1\\_flu/index.htm](http://www.idph.state.il.us/h1n1_flu/index.htm). Other sources of information are the Centers for Disease Control Website at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov) or [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov). As always, please call the District Office if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Wakeley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "S" at the beginning.

Dr. Scott Wakeley  
Superintendent