



NOVATO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Achievement for All – Our Call to Action

Raquel Rose
Director of Student Services

Dr. Jan La Torre–Derby
Superintendent

Dear Parents:

October 30, 2009

In order to be proactive and responsive to the continued concern around H1N1, Novato Unified School District continues to be in close communications with the Marin County Office of Education, the Marin County Department of Health and Human Services and other agencies to provide information about H1N1 and seasonal flu. The Marin County Department of Health and Human Services is also working closely with the California Department of Public Health and the National Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention to monitor developments in California, nationally and internationally.

This week the Centers for Disease Control reported that visits to doctors for influenza-like symptoms are increasing nationwide and are higher than average for this time of year. In NUSD, we have also seen an increase in the number of students who are absent. We are monitoring student absence rates and comparing to historic attendance patterns and trends.

There have been questions about the possibility of school closures, and how these decisions will be made. We are in regular contact with the Marin County Department of Health and Human Services and the Marin County Office of Education, and at this time, they have not recommended any change to our current protocol.

NUSD, like other local education agencies and local communities, can expect the impact of flu in our community to be different from that seen in other parts of the country. As outlined by the CDC, Novato Unified School District would involve several key individuals and agencies in the decision making process if considering any type of school dismissal or closure. Our Superintendent will be informed by the Centers for Disease Control and other public health agencies if school dismissal or closure decisions are needed. At a minimum, this would include school and district personnel, the Board of Education, the Marin County Office of Education, the City of Novato, Marin County Department of Health and Human Services, and other local agencies impacted by such a decision.

State health officials urge all persons with mild flu-like illness to stay home. Children, adolescents and adults with fever should not go to day care, school or work until their fever has gone away for 24 hours-without use of fever reducing medicine. Pregnant women and individuals with severe illness, such as difficulty breathing, should contact their health care provider. Schools, businesses and other organizations are urged to plan for the flu.

This is a rapidly evolving situation and Marin County Department of Health & Human Services is asking people to be alert for changes in their guidance, by referring to the www.marinflu.org website.

Novato Unified School District is committed to the safety and well being of our community and is taking all the necessary steps to ensure this happens.

Raquel Rose
Director of Student Services

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Debbie Butler, Cindi Clinton, Thomas Cooper, Derek Knell, Ross Millerick, Leslie Schwarze and Jennifer Treppa

<http://nUSD.org>