



Dear New Horizon Families:

As many of you know, when children of any age are in a group setting it is quite likely that they will transmit germs to and from each other. With the fall season approaching, we want to work together with you to help keep our children and staff as healthy and safe as possible.

Public health experts are predicting that the H1N1 novel influenza virus may be more prevalent this fall. The Department of Health and Human Services is taking steps necessary to secure an H1N1 flu vaccine for possible use in the fall. Please contact your clinic for more information on the availability of this vaccine.

New Horizon Academy will continue to take the following steps to prevent transmission and to protect our children, teachers, parents, and local communities from infection:

- We frequently sanitize all mouthed toys and commonly touched surfaces.
- We are updating emergency contact information for all children and teachers.
- We discuss and consistently practice proper handwashing techniques at all times.
- We discuss and consistently practice the covering of a mouth during coughing or sneezing, along with the use of appropriate items to prevent the spread of infection, such as Kleenex, antibacterial soap, etc.
- We consistently follow our guidelines for the exclusion of ill children or employees as they currently exist, and we will make adjustments as necessary for staff and children.
- We are keeping abreast of the latest information regarding H1N1 novel influenza through all reliable resources available, including the New Horizon health consultants, the Minnesota Department of Health, and the Centers for Disease Control.

Please help us by keeping ill children home and reporting any cases of contagious illness to us. We appreciate your patience and understanding as we prepare for the fall cold and flu season.

Sincerely,

Center Director

/jlm