

# Whitehall-Coplay School District

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October 23, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians:

With the arrival of the fall season, cases of the H1N1 and seasonal virus are appearing in our schools, as well as across the state and the country. Currently, here in the Whitehall-Coplay School District, we are beginning to see some signs of impact in our attendance rate. The purpose of this message is to remind you of some of the precautions that we ALL need to take to stay healthy, and to let you know what we are doing in school to control the spread of germs.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that students with flu-like symptoms such as fever, sore throat and body aches contact their family doctor with questions or concerns.

Our nursing staff will continue to send students home with fevers of 100 degrees or higher. Students with flu-like symptoms may be asked to wear a mask to suppress the spread of germs while waiting in the nurse's office to go home. **It is important that students and staff stay home until they are fever free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication.**

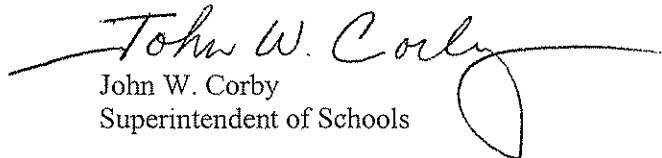
In our schools, we are continuing to reinforce with students, that frequent hand washing with soap and water remains one of the most important defenses in containing the spread of germs. The district has provided hand sanitizers in strategic locations. Using a tissue, or turning your head into the bend of your elbow when coughing and sneezing, will also decrease the spread of germs. We ask you to help with reinforcing this at home. Custodial service have increased the frequency of cleaning appropriately. We are being vigilant in as many ways as possible to teach our students and staff what they can do to reduce the spread of germs.

The CDC is recommending that children and adults in high risk categories get vaccinated against both the seasonal and H1N1 flu. Vaccine-related questions should be directed to your doctor.

More information, including helpful links, can be found on our web site  
[www.whitehallcoplay.org](http://www.whitehallcoplay.org)

Thank you in advance for your cooperation. Best wishes to you and your family for a healthy fall season.

Sincerely,

  
John W. Corby  
Superintendent of Schools