



# ELKTON-PIGEON-BAY PORT LAKER SCHOOLS

6136 Pigeon Road ♦ Pigeon, MI 48755

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## BOARD OF EDUCATION

Duane Baur, Neal B. Eichler, Gregory S. Foy, Kathryn McGathy,  
J. Dean Smith, Mary F. Tait, and Emily J. Turner

Dear Parents or Guardians:

We learned recently that it is likely that at least one of our students has become ill with the Type A flu virus which is in all likelihood H1N1. In planning a response, we have consulted with the Huron County Health Department. Unlike last spring, the county, state, and national health authorities now do not recommend the closing of schools; however, if the problem worsens to the extent that the absenteeism rate exceeds 20%, we will consider closing. (Currently it is less than 10%)

On the back of this letter is an information sheet regarding the H1N1 virus. If you believe your child may have contracted the disease, it is important to take the student to the doctor, and to inform our school nurse, Sue Licht, if the doctor indicates the illness is likely to be the H1N1 flu. To minimize the spread of the flu, please arrange to keep your child at home for at least 24 hours after his/her temperature returns to normal.

We are taking extra precautions in regard to disinfecting our facilities, but with hundreds of children and teens present, no disinfecting will prevent the spread of germs for long. We are taking extra care in wiping down doorknobs, railing, drinking fountains, student desks and other surfaces frequently touched by our students and staff. The best prevention, however, is for children to keep their hands clean by frequent washing or use of the available disinfecting gel. We will continue to monitor the health of your children here at school. Watch for letters like this one and look on the school website for updates.

Thank you for your support as we respond to this issue.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Smith  
Superintendent  
Elkton-Pigeon Bay Port Laker Schools

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## **INFLUENZA A (H1N1)**

Influenza A (H1N1) is a respiratory illness that is spread from human to human through respiratory droplets that are dispersed when an ill person coughs or sneezes. People may become infected by touching a contaminated object or surface and subsequently touching their eyes, mouth, or nose. Influenza can worsen underlying chronic medical conditions.

Symptoms include a sudden onset of one or more of the following

- Sudden fever of 100° F or above
- Cough with fever
- Chills
- Headache or sore throat
- Nausea and vomiting
- Diarrhea

If your child experiences these symptoms, please report these when you call to report your child's absence. If any flu-like symptoms are present among students while at school, they will be sent home. Students and staff members should stay home until fever temperatures have subsided for at least twenty-four (24) hours.

Spread of the flu virus can be prevented by:

- Avoiding close contact with people
- Covering your nose and mouth with a tissue when you sneeze or cough. If no tissue is available, cough or sneeze into your elbow or sleeve.
- Disposing of a soiled tissue in a waste receptacle after use
- Washing your hands often with soap and water
- Using alcohol based hand cleaner if soap and water are not convenient
- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, or mouth
- Cleaning surfaces and wiping them down with a household disinfectant according to directions on the product label. Influenza can survive on surfaces for up to 2 to 8 hours
- Getting the seasonal flu, as well as H1N1 flu vaccinations

E.P.B.P. Laker food service staff uses sanitizing solutions to disinfect all tables, serving lines, serving supplies, and equipment. Custodial staff is continuing to sanitize student desks, doorknobs, hand railings, drinking fountains, and all other surfaces frequently touched by students and staff.

The Laker administrative staff is in close contact with the Huron County Health Department. The flu situation will be closely monitored and parents will be kept fully informed. H1N1 vaccinations will likely be available in November, the soonest our county can receive the vaccine. At that time, there will be publicity regarding when vaccinations may be received and by whom.

You may also find information at these web pages:

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: <http://www.pandemicflu.gov>

World Health Organization: <http://www.who.int/en>

Center for Disease Control: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/parents>