

Greenwich Stow Creek Partnership Schools

TO: All Parents/Guardians

FROM: John Klug
Superintendent

DATE: October 6, 2014

RE: Enterovirus-D68 (EV-D68)

Enterovirus-D68 (EV-D68) has been in the news quite a bit in the last few weeks. The first student death from EV-D68 in New Jersey was confirmed this past week. Please see the attached memo from the New Jersey Department of Health with information on the EV-D68.

In mid-September the Greenwich Stow Creek Partnership Schools began taking the following proactive precautionary actions :

1. The school nurses, our health professionals, have made brief, developmentally appropriate presentations to each class on EV-D68 prevention. They made every effort not to unduly alarm or scare students while providing students and staff with the recommended information to minimize the risk of contracting EV-D68 or any other respiratory illness such as the flu. Therefore they will cover the following preventative points and techniques with each class as per DOH guidance:
 - Cover your coughs and sneezes
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
 - Wash hands frequently and properly
 - Stay home if sick
2. Teachers, while also being careful not to unnecessarily alarm students, are to encourage students to follow all of the recommended preventative procedures and to send any students presenting symptoms to the school nurse.
3. As of September 15th we altered our daily cleaning routine at both schools and entered what is the enhanced cleaning schedule normally employed during flu season earlier than usual this year. We are emphasizing sanitizing desks, doorknobs, handrails, cafeteria tables, and other potential transmissions sites several times per day.
4. School bus railings, handles and seat tops are being sanitized as well.
5. As of today we are upping our hand sanitizing since it has been determined that none of the hand sanitizers are effective against EV-D68. All students will be washing their hands with soap and water (the CDC recommended method). Before lunch and as many other times during the day as is feasible.
6. We have verified that the surface sanitizing solution we currently are using is effective for EV-D68, as well as, flu and noroviruses and will continue to use it for all surfaces.
7. Although not effective against EV-D68 Hand sanitizing materials are effective against flu and other viruses and will continue to be made available to students and staff in the classrooms, restrooms, cafeteria, and office.
8. As they are made available to us we will be posting any additional information regarding EV-D68, including links to Center for Disease Control or NJ-DOH advisories, on the school web site.