



October 5, 2011

Dear Snohomish County School Nurse:

Welcome to the new school year and the start of another year of influenza surveillance. Snohomish Health District has been conducting enhanced disease surveillance in the school system for many years. Monitoring school absenteeism due to **illness** is a critical part of tracking illness in our community. It is important that Snohomish Health District is aware of increases in absenteeism due to illness, so that we can provide proper public health response and epidemiological assistance. Reports are also critical to tracking influenza within Snohomish County. Early detection through surveillance will help control the further spread of the illness. Reporting is also in compliance with WACs 246-101-420 and 246-101-525 which require that schools report disease that may be associated with the schools and also significant increases in school absenteeism resulting from influenza-like illness.

The general guideline for reporting illness in the school settings is as follows:

Notify Snohomish Health District if greater than 10% of the school population is absent due to illness for half the day or more.

A similar reporting form to what you used last year will be used. I have enclosed a copy of the reporting form with this information packet. Your report may be faxed, phoned or emailed to the Communicable Disease Epidemiologist at Snohomish Health District (see form for contact information).

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you for your continued participation in this program.

Regards,

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