

**Ontario School District
Steps for Preventing and Addressing the Spread of Flu**

The District Will:

- 1. Educate and encourage students and staff to cover their mouth and nose with a tissue when they cough and sneeze. The district will also provide them with easy access to tissues, running water and soap or alcohol and non-alcohol-based hand cleaners. (Alcohol-based hand cleaners will be provided in each building's cafeteria and non-alcohol-based hand cleaners will be provided for each building's computer lab.) Students and staff will also be reminded to cover coughs or sneezes using their elbow instead of their hand when a tissue is not available.**
- 2. Send sick students, teachers, and staff home and advise them and their families that sick people should stay at home until at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever or signs of a fever (without the use of fever-reducing medicine).**
- 3. Clean and disinfect school facilities regularly and especially items that are more likely to have frequent hand contact such as desks, door knobs, keyboards, counters etc.**
- 4. Move students to a separate room if they become sick at school until they can be sent home. Also, the District will limit the number of staff who take care of the sick individual.**
- 5. Encourage early medical evaluation for sick students and staff at higher risk of complications from flu. People at high risk of flu complications who get sick will benefit from early treatment with antiviral medicines.**
- 6. Stay in regular communication with officials from the Mansfield/Ontario/Richland County Health Department and report, by building, our absences to the health department weekly.**

**IF THE FLU CONDITIONS BECOME MORE SEVERE
THE DISTRICT WILL CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:**

- 1. Extending the time sick students, teachers, and staff stay home. This may include requesting individuals stay home for at least 7 days, even if they feel better sooner. Those who are sick after 7 days should continue to stay home until at least 24 hours after symptoms have gone away. (A doctor's note may be required for return to school.)**
- 2. Allowing high-risk students, teachers, and staff to stay home until being released to return to school after consultation with their physician and/or health care professional.**

