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## LAKE VILLA COMMUNITY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT #41

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131 McKinley Avenue Lake Villa, Illinois 60046-8986 www.district41.org Phone: 847/356-2385 Fax: 847/356-2670

October 28, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians:

In the past week, influenza activity has increased dramatically in many communities throughout Lake County. Our District has seen a rise in Influenza Like Illness (ILI) throughout all of the buildings. The Health Department anticipates that school absenteeism from ILI will continue to rise in the coming months and may become worse during the colder months, especially with the onset of the regular seasonal flu.

The Lake County Health Department, is asking that we not report individual cases of influenza (either clinically diagnosed or by rapid influenza test) to them. They are also not recommending that a letter be sent home to notify parents of each clinically diagnosed or lab confirmed influenza case reported in the school. We are keeping a daily log of total absenteeism and those ill with suspected flu. We are reporting daily to the communicable disease program increases in absenteeism from ILI based on the following protocol:

- When total absenteeism is over 10% in any one building
- Absenteeism due to ILI over 5% in any one building
- More than 10 children with ILI seen by the school nurse on the same day

If your child becomes ill, please keep them home. Your child can be ill for up to five days with this influenza, so anticipate that they may miss a week of school. Some children will be ill longer and some will recover earlier, but the **24 hours fever free** (without fever reducing medication) refers to the minimum amount of time before a child is allowed to return to school. According to the Center for Disease Control, keeping people home with a fever may reduce the number of people who get infected, since elevated temperature is associated with increased shedding of the influenza virus. The District will not be asking parents to provide a doctor's note for children to return to school.

Lake Villa's District website [www.district41.org](http://www.district41.org) will continue to post information regarding ILI on the Health Information tab under "District Information". Please also visit the Lake County Health Department website [www.idph.state.il.us](http://www.idph.state.il.us) for information regarding the ILI virus and the clinics they will be opening in the area that will be offering the H1N1 vaccination.

Sincerely,

Dr. John Van Pelt  
Superintendent of Schools

JVP/jl