



# North Hunterdon-Voorhees Regional High School District

*"Providing Success for All Students"*

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*CHARLES M. SHADOW, Ph.D.*  
*Superintendent of Schools*

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*SUSAN PRESS*  
*School Business Administrator/  
Secretary, Board of Education*

October 2, 2009

Dear Parents and/or Guardians:

As the H1N1 flu pandemic continues to be at the forefront of the news, we wanted to update you on an important change that the district is making during this pandemic. In response to a recommendation from the Hunterdon County Executive Superintendent of Schools and the Hunterdon County Health Department, the district is temporarily amending its attendance policy in regards to the requirement for a doctor's note to have a child's absence excused if the child has been out of school due to an illness.

The district's current attendance policy (#5200) states that we require a note from a doctor, lawyer, dentist, etc. when your child returns to school if you would like the absence(s) excused. **We will now accept the attached Return to School note in lieu of a doctor's note ONLY during this pandemic and ONLY if your child has been out of school ill with flu-like symptoms.** This note is also available on our H1N1 webpage: [www.nhvweb.net/swineflu.asp](http://www.nhvweb.net/swineflu.asp).

If your child is out of school because of flu-like symptoms and you would like the absence(s) excused, please have your child provide a completed and signed Return to School Note to the high school's attendance office upon returning to school. The child will then be sent to the nurse's office to have his/her temperature taken. If the child's temperature is above 100 degrees, the child will be sent home. The district is adhering to the guideline from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention which states that students who experience flu-like symptoms should not return to school unless they have been free of fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medication.

Please note, this Return to School Note is not mandatory, but can be used if you would like your child's absence(s) to be excused if he/she has had flu-like symptoms. While we will accept this new form in lieu of a doctor's note, we highly recommend that if you suspect your child may have the H1N1 flu to please contact your family physician.

It would be greatly appreciated if you will inform the attendance office if your child is out sick with flu-like symptoms, which can include fever over 100 degrees, cough, sore throat, runny or stuff nose, body aches, headache, chills, fatigue, and possibly vomiting and diarrhea. This practice will help us to monitor any potential H1N1 flu cases.

We continue to take steps to help prevent the spread of germs in our schools. We have placed hand sanitizers, antibacterial wipes, and tissues in all classrooms. Our custodial staff is paying special

attention to disinfecting commonly used areas such as drinking fountains, toilet handles, door knobs, cafeteria tables, etc. Our teachers are reminding students to wash their hands with soap and water and cover their coughs. We would appreciate your help in also reminding your child(ren) about the importance of good hygiene.

We encourage you to visit our H1N1 flu webpage, [www.nhvweb.net/swineflu.asp](http://www.nhvweb.net/swineflu.asp), as we continue to post new information periodically. The Hunterdon County Health Department is currently scheduling vaccination clinics to provide the H1N1 flu vaccine to children 10 years of age to 24 (children 6 months to 9 years can get the vaccine through their pediatrician when it is available). We expect to have this information for you within the next two weeks and will communicate it to you once the dates of the clinics are made available to us.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this time. Our top priority is, and always will be, the safety and health of our students, staff and community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C.M. Shaddow". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over the printed name below.

Charles M. Shaddow, Ph.D.  
Superintendent of Schools