

January 2018

Dear Parents, Guardians, Staff, Students, and Community:


As you know, flu season is upon us. As reported in the news, this year's "flu bug" has been quite robust and is spreading rapidly. In the Horseheads Central School District, we are committed to providing a safe, clean environment for our students and staff. To that end, in order to reduce the spread of the flu throughout the school district, we are working diligently to lessen the impact of this year's "flu bug."

- Our Maintenance Department is rearranging work schedules and reassigning of personnel for additional cleaning of the school buildings using EPA-registered disinfectants.
- Maintenance employees are performing additional cleaning of "commonly contacted" hard surfaces such as door knobs, desks, tables, etc.
- The district is educating staff and students of preventative measures recommended by the New York State Department of Health such as "hand hygiene," i.e. covering coughs with the elbow and minimizing contact with others if one is ill.
  - o Remember the 3 "C's" for prevention:
    1. **Clean** your hands frequently
    2. **Cover** your cough
    3. Reduce **contact** with others if you are sick
- The district is increasing awareness of flu prevention via posters and information.
- Governor Cuomo has issued a statement concerning flu prevention:

*"With flu cases reaching epidemic proportions in New York, we must do everything in our power to fight this virus and keep New Yorkers safe...Once again, I urge all New Yorkers to help us combat this quick-spreading strain of flu and make sure they and their loved ones are vaccinated."*

We urge everyone to take this situation seriously, stay home if you have been diagnosed with the flu, and work together to reduce the impact of the flu. If you have questions, please contact your school principal. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Dr. Thomas J. Douglas  
Superintendent of Schools