



THE BOARD OF EDUCATION

OF
THE COUNTY OF McDOWELL
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Dear Parent or Guardian:

This is just a reminder that flu season is here and prevention and awareness is the key to a healthy school year. In collaboration with the State of WV, we are working to reduce the spread of infectious disease. We encourage you to take these simple steps to protect you and your child(ren) during this flu season:

- **Wash your hands.** Frequent hand washing keeps lots of germs out of our bodies, including the influenza virus. If soap and water are not available, use a hand sanitizer.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.** Germs easily spread this way.
- **Use tissues to block a sneeze or cough.** If no tissues are available, use your sleeve. This helps prevent the spread of germs. Don't forget to wash your hands afterward, even if using a tissue.
- **If your child is sick, keep them home.** Do not send them to school. An infected person may spread influenza one day before having symptoms up to 7 days after becoming ill. Children should remain home until they have been fever free for at least 24 hours.

The flu is highly contagious. It is extremely important to reinforce hand hygiene with your child(ren). Influenza commonly starts in December and January and peaks in February and March. Please contact your primary health care physician at the earliest onset of symptoms for prompt diagnosis and treatment.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact your school and speak with the school nurse.

Thank You,

Angie Hopkins, RN, MSN, WVCSN
Miranda Lester, RN, BSN, WVCSN

