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BRANFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Parents/Guardians:

This is an update regarding the possible H₁N₁ outbreak here in the Branford schools. Incidence of illness is down in several schools today. Absenteeism is down today at Walsh Intermediate School to approximately 26.5% of the student population.

At Branford High School 10.7% of the students were absent. Each of our elementary schools, Tisko at 10.0%, Sliney at 9.9% and Murphy at 13.2% were absent.

As I noted yesterday, without official documentation and testing, it is impossible to know how many of the absences are due to H₁N₁. It does appear that there is a fair amount of the H₁N₁ virus in our student population. Very few staff are absent at this point.

Please continue to encourage good health habits with your children, especially hand washing. Also, it is important to relay your child's symptoms to the school if your child is ill. This will help us better monitor the situation.

At this time, there are no plans to close school. Should there be a change, you will receive immediate notification. I will continue my consultation with school administrators, school nurses, our school physician and the health department.

Sincerely,

Kathleen C. Halligan, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools