

Madeira City School District Pandemic Plan

A pandemic can occur when a non-human (novel) virus gains the ability for efficient and sustained human-to-human transmission and then spreads globally. The virus must be easily transmitted and have no vaccine developed to prevent it. In the event of a pandemic, Madeira City School District will work in conjunction with the Hamilton County Public Health Department (HCPHD), Center for Disease Control (CDC), and Ohio Department of Health (ODH). Our ultimate goal is to protect the health and safety of our students, staff, and community. Following recommendations by local health agencies, Madeira's Pandemic Plan aims to reduce the number of illnesses and limit school disruption.

Stage One: Mitigation and Prevention:

No new virus subtypes have been detected in humans.

- Promote positive health habits for students and staff. Teach good respiratory etiquette, frequent hand washing, and staying home when ill.
- Ensure custodial staff has adequate training and supplies to institute procedures for disinfecting classrooms, common areas and restrooms.
- Update contact information for staff, students and families.
- Identify and purchase necessary supplies for school infection control (i.e. hand sanitizers, tissues, masks, cleaning agents)
- Ensure that adequate hand washing facilities/alternatives are available to all staff and students.
- Identify students and staff who are most vulnerable to serious illness. Encourage them to discuss special precautions with their healthcare provider.
- Exclude students with signs of illness per district policy and ODH communicable disease guidelines.
- Schedule yearly flu shot clinic for staff and their families

Stage Two: Preparedness

Pandemic risk. Illness identified. Human to human spread localized.

- Establish contact with Hamilton County Public Health Department and Ohio Department of Health to monitor disease occurrence as needed.
- Continue to encourage positive health habits including good respiratory etiquette, frequent hand washing and staying home when ill.
- Inventory infection control supplies and personal protective equipment. Order additional supplies if needed.
- Identify isolation areas for each school building.
- Exclude students with signs of illness per district policy and ODH communicable disease guidelines.
- Communicate with families, staff and community via letter or email as directed by ODH/CDC/HCPHD and building administrator.

Stage Three: Response

Pandemic. Increased and sustained virus transmission in the general population.

- Communicate with HCPHD/ ODH/CDC. Obtain guidelines for reporting individual cases and incidence. Determine if school facilities and resources may be needed as a part of community response plan. Discuss the possibility of canceling non-academic events and/or closing schools as a part of community disease containment measures.
- Continue to encourage positive health habits including good respiratory etiquette, frequent hand washing and staying home when ill.
- Contact parents of children with chronic conditions who are at increased risk for morbidity from contracting virus. Discuss options.
- Review symptom recognition with staff.
- Direct custodial staff to institute procedures for classroom disinfection.
- Isolate students who exhibit signs and symptoms of pandemic illness. Contact parents to make arrangements to have the child picked up as soon as possible. Ask students to wear masks if there is more than one student in the isolation area.
- Exclude students with signs of illness per district policy and ODH communicable disease guidelines.
- Begin heightened disease surveillance reporting as directed by HCPH. Document all illness and absenteeism.
- Communicate new information to families and staff via email/automatic dialer/website as new information becomes available and as directed by HCPHD and building administrator.

School Closure

Directed by HCPHD/CDC

- Follow HCPHD/CDC recommendations concerning school closing.
- Instruct students to take textbooks and other work materials home.
- Encourage parents to have their children avoid congregating in public while not at school.
- Maintain communication with the HCPHD concerning disease surveillance.
- Update families and staff via automatic dialer/email/website.
- Work with HCPHD/CDC to determine when school can reopen

Recovery

Virus transmission no longer sustained

- Determine staffing needs based on returning student population and ensure staff coverage for school reopening.
- Communicate to staff and families regarding school schedule and expectations.
- Continue disinfecting procedures.
- Continue heightened disease surveillance.
- Provide counseling to address student and staff concerns related to pandemic.
- Evaluate effectiveness of pandemic plan and make adjustments as needed.

RESOURCES

Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (2014). *CDC Resources for Pandemic Flu*. Retrieved from <http://www.cdc.gov>.

Ohio Department of Health. (2007). *Pandemic Influenza Toolkit for Ohio Schools*.

U.S. Department of Education. (2012). *Administrators Lead & Manage My School Emergency Planning: Influenza Outbreak*. Retrieved from <http://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/safety/emergencyplan/pandemic/more.html>

Hamilton County Public Health. (2012). *Infectious Disease/Pandemic Appendix*. Retrieved from www.hamiltoncountyhealth.org