



Dear Parent/Guardian:

Before your child's camp session starts, we are writing you to address issues related to H1N1 novel influenza (formerly known as swine flu). Novel H1N1 influenza continues to circulate in Minnesota. We have been advised by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) that this virus appears to be similar to seasonal influenza in terms of transmission and severity. Seasonal influenza is spread person to person primarily when an infected person coughs or sneezes near a susceptible person. The symptoms of novel H1N1 influenza have included fever, cough, and sore throat; some individuals have also experienced headache, muscle aches, runny nose, vomiting, and diarrhea.

Most cases of H1N1 novel influenza in Minnesota have recovered without complication. However, some people have needed to be hospitalized, and there have been some deaths due to this virus. Generally people who have had complications from novel H1N1 influenza are people with underlying medical conditions such as heart, lung or kidney disease, asthma, diabetes, immunosuppression, pregnant women, children under 5 years (especially those under 2 years), or people over 65 years of age. It is important to know that there currently is not a vaccine for this virus and we are relying on people to limit the spread of influenza by staying home when sick, covering coughs, frequent handwashing and not touching their nose, eyes or mouth.

There are antiviral medications that can be used to treat or prevent this infection. Individuals who are ill with symptoms of influenza or who have an underlying medical condition and have close contact with someone who has an influenza-like illness should contact their healthcare provider regarding the need for evaluation and medication.

It is important to take some precautions to help ensure that campers have a safe and healthy camp experience. This situation is not a cause for alarm, but it is a reason for planning and for sharing with you our approach to campers who have influenza-like illness (ILI):

- Please do not send your child to camp if they have ILI. ILI illness means a fever together with cough and/or sore throat. Fever is defined as greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit.
- Children who have fever, together with cough and/or sore throat, are considered to have an ILI unless they have been diagnosed with a different illness by a healthcare provider (for example, "strep throat"). Children with ILI should stay home for seven (7) days or 24 hours after the resolution of acute symptoms, whichever is longer.

- If your child has symptoms of a respiratory illness such as a cough only, please delay their arrival at camp for 24 hours to observe for other symptoms.
- If your child develops ILI during the camp session, they will be separated from other campers and excluded from camp activities. We will contact you to pick them up and ask that you pick them up as promptly as possible.
- If it is not possible for you to pick them up, per the recommendations of MDH, we cannot send them home by public transportation (e.g. plane, bus). In that circumstance, we will keep them at the camp separated from other campers unless their symptoms require a higher level of care. In that case, we will transport them to a hospital emergency room and notify you or your emergency contact.
- If your child has a condition that puts them at high risk for complications from influenza, we ask that you make sure we are aware of that condition. We also recommend that you talk to your child's health care provider prior to camp and develop a plan for what to do if your child gets ILI or is exposed to ILI while at camp. Upon advice of your child's health care provider, this may include sending a course of antiviral medication with your child to be taken if they develop ILI or other campers in close contact with your child develop ILI. If antiviral medication is recommended for a child with high risk conditions while they are at camp and they do not have medication, we will contact you or your emergency contact immediately.

For our part, please know that we have asked our staff to watch for ILI in campers. We have also told staff to follow the same policies that we are communicating to you including not coming to camp if they have ILI.

Please let us know if you have questions. We look forward to a safe and fun camp experience for your child.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ganard A. Orionzi". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "A" and a stylized "O" and "R".

Ganard A. Orionzi CHMM

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Prevent; Promote; Protect.