

[Welcome back statement that can be used on your school's website. Note one area that requires your school's information.]

Welcome back, we hope you had a fun and healthy summer break! As you know, we are in the midst of an influenza pandemic. Our goal is to protect the health of our students, faculty and staff. We are following a pandemic preparedness plan that was developed with the Polk County Health Department. Based on the current situation we will increase sanitation practices in the school and teach and enforce proper hand washing and cough practice. We will also work closely with the Polk County Health Department to help prevent the spread of disease in our school and community. *[Note, remove the beginning of the following sentence if your school is not holding a seasonal flu shot clinic]* We will be holding seasonal flu shot clinics and will assist the Polk County Health Department in vaccinating school-aged children when the H1N1 vaccine becomes available later this fall. You can help our efforts by teaching and encouraging your children to wash their hands often and thoroughly. Monitor your children for influenza-like symptoms, including fever with a cough or sore throat, and keep your child home from school at least 24 hours after their temperature returns to normal (without the help of fever-reducing medication). Thank you for your cooperation and we will continue to communicate our efforts throughout the influenza season. For more information about H1N1 or seasonal flu visit www.polkcountyiowa.gov/health.