

2009/2010



According to the Youth Risk Behavior Survey for Chicago, a survey of high school students, the following health behaviors suggest **improved** change over time between 1995 and 2005:

- Percentage of students who carried a weapon
- Percentage of students who had been threatened or injured with a weapon on school property
- Percentage of students who did not go to school because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to or from school
- Percentage of students who had ever been taught in school about AIDS or HIV infection
- Percentage of students who exercised to lose weight or to keep from gaining weight
- Among students enrolled in physical education class, the percentage who exercised or played sports more than 20 minutes

Results suggest **worsened** health behaviors between 1995 and 2005 for:

- Percentage of students who had at least one drink of alcohol
- Percentage of students who used marijuana
- Percentage of students who attended physical education classes on one or more days in an average week

## 2009 H1N1 Flu (Swine Influenza): Student Attendance & Absenteeism Monitoring

In collaboration with the Chicago Department of Public Health the following procedures must be followed regarding student attendance and the monitoring of student absenteeism in response to the 2009 H1N1 Flu (Swine Influenza).

- When identified by the Office of Specialized Services, schools with a significant variance in absenteeism as compared to benchmark data will be required to contact the parent or guardian of students documented as being absent.
- Using the **SIM Data Entry for H1N1 Outcalling** module, (please check the IMPACT website for further instructions) the principal will designate school staff who must call the parent or guardian of each absent student regarding the cause of absence (i.e. cough, fever (100 °F or higher), etc.) and document the results. The same reporting document should be used for parents or guardians who call in to report their child's absence.
- If it is determined that the student's absence is due to a fever (100 °F or higher), the parent or guardian must be notified that students may return to school only after they have been without a fever for 24 hours without the use of medicine (i.e. Tylenol, Motrin, etc.). A healthcare provider's note is not required.
- The school principal is responsible for ensuring that a Student Dismissal and Return Form is completed for each student documented as having a fever (100 °F or higher) and that all completed forms are faxed to Coordinated School Health at 773-553-1883 by the close of the business day.
- Student attendance and absenteeism data will be monitored on a daily basis by the Chicago Public Schools in collaboration with the Chicago Department of Public Health.

The 2009 H1N1 (swine influenza) causes mild illness in most individuals, similar to the flu we see every winter. Therefore, school closures are not recommended when students or school staff are diagnosed with 2009 H1N1 infections, unless there are special circumstances, such as a large number of students with compromised immune systems.

Selective school dismissals may be considered by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and the Chief Education Officer (CEdO) based on the population of an individual school or evidence of increased influenza severity.