

NEWS RELEASE NEWS RELEASE NEWS RELEASE

BUFFALO TEACHERS FEDERATION

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT: 271 Porter • Buffalo, New York 14201 • (716) 881-5400

For Immediate Release

September 1, 2009

BTF ASKS FOR STATE AND FEDERAL H1N1 MANDATES

Continuing on it's aggressive campaign to be prepared for a possible deadly H1N1 flu outbreak, the BTF today called for State and Federal Governments to require that all school districts develop "a written comprehensive Protocol/Action Plan detailing their pro-active long term plans to address the H1N1 virus."

The BTF suggests that the following be included in the Protocol/Action Plans:

- Sample letters to all parents advising them of the seriousness of H1N1 and that if their child has a high fever, sometimes accompanied by a cough, they must keep their child home and should seek medical attention.
- A copy of a letter that would be sent to all parents and staff advising them of any confirmed case of H1N1 in their school (worksite).
- Will shots be given in school? When? Where?
- When a school(s) will be closed as a result of H1N1.
- Will hand sanitizers shown to be effective against H1N1 be made available in each class and on school buses? If not, what other means of providing the same protection will be provided? We believe that some hand sanitizers being used are ineffective against H1N1, giving districts a false sense of security. New York State should provide a list of H1N1 effective hand sanitizers.

"We continue to believe that many have been lulled into a false sense of security.

This virus has been shown to be particularly dangerous to children who look to us for protection. We cannot violate that trust.

While we are very hopeful that the H1N1 vaccination will prevent an H1N1 pandemic, we need to be prepared for all eventualities.

We also need to remember that we may have two (or an extended) H1N1 seasons. The last outbreak occurred in the spring," Rumore stated.

President PHILIP RUMORE



August 31, 2009

BUFFALO TEACHERS
FEDERATION, INC

MEMO TO: Dr. David M. Steiner, State Commissioner of Education

FROM: Philip Rumore, President, BTF 

271 PORTER AVENUE
BUFFALO, N.Y. 14201
(716) 881-5400
FAX (716) 881-6678

RE: H1N1

The Buffalo Teachers Federation, as we are sure you are, is very concerned with the possible spread of the deadly H1N1 virus. Please see our website www.btfny.org - Call to action/What's New and the enclosed letter to our state and national affiliates.

While we remain hopeful that the H1N1 virus vaccine will prevent a major outbreak of H1N1, we ask that either the State Education Department or the NYS Legislature, whichever body is appropriate, mandate that each school district develop a written comprehensive Protocol/Action Plan detailing their proactive and long-term plans to address the H1N1 virus and, if you believe it appropriate, submit same to the State Education Department. Said action plan should be distributed to all school staff and made available to parents.

We suggest consideration of the following for inclusion in the Protocol/Action Plan:

- Sample letters to all parents advising them of the seriousness of H1N1 and that if their child has a high fever, sometimes accompanied by a cough, they must keep their child home and should seek medical attention.
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We must all remember that we could have two (2) outbreaks – Fall and, as with last year, Spring. Thank you, in advance, for your attention to this critical issue.

PR:ls
Encl: 1

cc: William Stachowski, NYS Senate
Dale Volker, NYS Senate
Antoine Thompson, NYS Senate

Mark Schroeder, NYS Assembly
Richard Iannuzzi, President NYSUT
Pauline Kinsella, Executive Director, NYSUT

President PHILIP RUMORE



August 31, 2009

BUFFALO TEACHERS
FEDERATION, INC

MEMO TO: Honorable Charles Schumer, US Senate
Honorable Kristen Gillibrand, US Senate
Honorable Brian Higgins, US Congress

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While we remain hopeful that the H1N1 virus vaccine will prevent a major outbreak of H1N1, we ask that Congress, or Department of Education or the appropriate agency, mandate that each school district develop a written comprehensive Protocol/Action Plan detailing their proactive and long-term plans to address the H1N1 virus and, if you believe it appropriate, submit same to the appropriate State Education agency. Said action plan should be distributed to all school staff and made available to parents.

We suggest consideration of the following for inclusion in the Protocol/Action Plan:

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PR:ls
Encl. 1

cc: Dennis Van Roekel, President, NEA
Randi Weingarten, President, AFT

Richard Iannuzzi, President, NYSUT

