PROTOCOL for assessing students suspected of having the flu

Any student with the following should be considered at risk for the flu:

- Fever > 100.5 and any of the following
 - O Cough
 - Sore throat
 - Shortness of breath

These students should have a surgical mask applied immediately. Once the mask has been placed on the student, the following questions should be asked of either the student or their parent:

- Has the student traveled to Mexico within seven days of onset of symptoms?
- Does the student have a sibling or close contact that attends a school where another student has swine flu?
- Is the student a contact of a known case of swine flu?

CODE 4871: INFLUENZA- FLU-LIKE SYMPTOMS

Students with a positive response to any of these questions should remain with the mask on. Their parents or guardians should be contacted and the child sent home. The student should remain in the medical room or in the medical room waiting area apart from the general population until he or she is picked up by an authorized individual. These students should remain out of school until they are no longer febrile and have no respiratory symptoms.

CODE 460: COLD SYMPTOMS

Students with a negative response to **all** of the above questions may have their masks removed. These students should be assessed as per the nurse's clinical judgment and district policy.

PARENTAL CONTACT

Telephone calls-- When parents call to notify the school that their student will be absent today because of illness, then the attendance clerk should read a district approved statement to the parent if the parent states the absense is flu or cold. The statement should include the items listed in the first bullet of this document and should recommend that the parent take the student to the doctor if these conditions are met to determine type of flu.

Parent picks up student-- When a parent arrives to pick up the ill student then the attendance clerk will submit a check out slip with the same information as given in telephone calls. In telephone call statements and picking up ill students, the statements and forms should request timely parent feed back so that school level isolation decisions can be made by school management.

Automated call and email systems--A district containing this capability should use it to educate the parent base. A call and email should be sent to all parents in the district containing a district approved statement.

General Considerations:

- Children with respiratory symptoms, but no fever may be sent back to class, if in the nurse's clinical judgment the child is well enough to return to class.
- Children with a fever are to be sent home whether or not they have respiratory symptoms.
- Children with fever and respiratory symptoms should be sent home. They should remain in the

- medical room or waiting area that is not heavily trafficked. They should not go back to class or the general office.
- In schools where there were medically fragile children who need procedures done, nurse should work with principals to find suitable alternate rooms where ill students can remain until parents came to pick them up.
- Nurses should follow standard protocols in requiring a student have medical clearance before returning to school.

