



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS

February 24, 2010

Aloha Kakou,

Our current Kamehameha Schools (KS) policy pertaining to Influenza-like Illness (ILI) follows the guidelines that were set by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Hawaii State Department of Health (DOH) in response to the outbreak of H1N1 influenza that hit us hard in Spring-Summer 2009 and which was still ongoing as we began our 2009-2010 School Year in August. These guidelines include the 7-day minimum stay-at-home policy for students and staff which was effective at limiting the spread and impact of ILI in our schools. We decided to stay with the conservative 7-day policy through the Fall and early Winter due to concern for the possible resurgence of H1N1 along with the usual colds and seasonal flu. At Kapalama this concern was compounded by our large population of boarders living in dormitories on campus. Fortunately, the cold and flu season has been mild this year and it appears that a H1N1 outbreak has not recurred. We have been most grateful for your kokua and support for this policy, understanding the inconvenience it may have caused and the family adjustments it has required.

After reviewing our past experience with ILI and consulting with the DOH, we feel it is reasonable and safe for our campuses (Kapalama, Maui, Hawaii) and Extension Educational Services Division Programs to move to the less restrictive guideline of allowing students and staff with ILI to return to school/work 24 hours after fever (100° Fahrenheit) has resolved without medication, which is the current recommendation from CDC and DOH.

For our Preschools (CBECE), due to serving a population at higher risk for respiratory illness, we have elected to require that students and staff be symptom-free as well as fever-free for 24 hours before returning to school/work.

In moving to the new policy, we all must remember that another outbreak of H1N1 is entirely possible and currently unpredictable. Our KS Medical Services will continue to monitor our experience with ILI as well as keep close contact with DOH. We have identified trigger points that could prompt us to adopt a more restrictive policy, including a return to our previous 7-day policy. In the course of all of these measures, please understand that our primary concerns are the safety and health of our children and staff and the preservation of KS's educational capability.

Should you have further questions and/or concerns regarding these guidelines, please feel free to contact your respective campus or program for assistance.

Thank you for your understanding in the past and in the future.

Mahalo,

Nathan A.K. Wong, MD
KS Medical Director