

*Upper Cape Cod Regional Technical School
22 Sandwich Road
Bourne, MA 02532*

November 3, 2009

Dear Parent/ Guardian:

Families and staff are understandably concerned about reports of influenza outbreaks across the country and Massachusetts. As expected, UCT has reported cases of influenza as well as an increase in absenteeism due to colds and other related illnesses.

The widespread outbreak of influenza in Massachusetts is a reminder of the unpredictable nature of viral illnesses and the importance of prevention. UCT is taking extra precautions in the daily general cleaning of the school. UCT is communicating with area schools and the Town of Bourne Health Department on a daily basis to identify potential influenza outbreaks.

At present, local health departments are experiencing delays in receiving vaccine shipments for both seasonal and H1N1 vaccine. UCT is collaborating with the Bourne Health Department and Bourne Public Schools to include our students in the vaccination effort. Parents will be informed when vaccine is available. We recommend you receive vaccination elsewhere if it becomes available sooner.

In order to maintain “stop spread” guidelines recommended by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, please keep your child home from school if he or she is sick. Please do not send your child to school with a fever. **If your child is sick with the flu, please call the school office. Students out of school with flu will be medically excused since most physicians are not recommending office visits.** Be sure to contact the school if your child will be out of school more than five (5) days. Please find attached the Flu Symptom Checklist for your convenience in decision making. Additional flu information can also be found on the school website.

Your willingness to talk with your child about frequent hand washing, cough and sneeze etiquette and not sharing drinks and eating utensils will help to minimize the spread of illness. With everyone’s cooperation we will minimize the impact of this season’s colds and flu to the student population.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Dutch

Robert A. Dutch, Principal