*In reviewing guidelines issued by the CDC for schools, there are a few actions that we can take immediately to prevent the spread of the virus (and make sense for mitigating the flu as well):*

*Encourage students and staff to stay home if they are sick.*

*CDC recommends exercising* *flexibility so that staff can stay home to care for sick family members.*

*They also recommend that* *schools discontinue (or suspend) perfect attendance awards and other attendance related recognitions*

*Establish expectations* *that students who are sick will be separated from their classmates until a family member can come to get them.*

*Establish additional* c*leaning protocols.  Our custodians have a protocol for cleaning common touch points every other day.  We will be providing disposable wipes to allow classroom staff to wipe down things such as keyboards, toys and other materials that would not be touched* *in school cleaning.  Our cafeteria and transportation department will also be implementing additional disinfecting routines.*

*We will be monitoring* *attendance patterns and communicating with public health officials on anything out of the ordinary.  Please help us to identify patterns in your school/department.*