



BCSC Public Statement

1:00 p.m., Friday, February 2, 2018

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of a first grade student at CSA Lincoln Elementary School. Per *The Republic*, we are aware that the child was diagnosed with Influenza B, strep throat, and scarlet fever. Although at the time of this statement, neither the name of the child nor an official cause of death has been released, we recognize the concerns of our families regarding the flu.

BCSC makes up one part of the community's responsibility to keep our children healthy throughout the year. It is important to note that the precautions taken at school should continue in other environments in our community.

BCSC has contacted Dr. Roy Goode, our corporation physician, the Bartholomew County Health Department, and the Indiana State Department of Health. Although there is no reporting requirement regarding illness rates until the absence rate reaches 20%, and our BCSC rate hovers around 5%, it is imperative that we share key information about the spread of germs. Given this, we emphasize the following:

- First and foremost, parents/guardians who have concerns about their child's overall health, flu-like symptoms, or any other risk factors should contact their child's primary care provider or the local health department for specific recommendations;
- Students and staff members who are sick should stay home and contact their primary care provider;
- Students and staff members are encouraged to get the flu vaccine. It is not too late to receive a vaccination for this year's flu season; and
- Students and staff members should be vigilant in taking everyday preventive actions. These include covering your nose and mouth with a tissue, or sleeve, when coughing or sneezing; washing your hands with soap and water, or use an alcohol based hand rub; and avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth as germs spread this way. According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), "flu viruses are thought to spread mainly from person to person through coughs and sneezes of infected people. Less often, a person also might get the flu by touching a surface or object that has flu virus on it and then touching their own mouth, eyes, or nose."

Additional resources for review include:

[Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\)](#)

[Flu Guide for Parents](#)

[Everyday Precautions](#)

As always, school attendance is critical to a child's success. We respect a parent's determination regarding his/her child's attendance. In making the decision to keep a child at home, as with any absence, parents are expected to contact the school and inform school officials of the specific reason.

We greatly appreciate your continued cooperation and support in keeping our community healthy. Please keep the child's family and the CSA Lincoln community in your thoughts.

Jim Roberts