



CRESTVIEW MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL

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To: Student Guardians

From: MS/HS Principals

Date: August 21, 2018

Subject: Calling in Student Absences

Crestview Local Schools have been working with Van Wert County Health Department on a system that monitors disease symptoms to prevent outbreaks and widespread severe illnesses in our school. We need your help in order to make this effort successful. Did you know that properly carried out disease surveillance efforts can significantly reduce the odds of a disease having a devastating impact on the population? We all want our students to succeed and because we know that healthy kids learn better, we are participating in the school absenteeism surveillance program established by the Health Department.

How does the system work? When an individual calls to report an absence, they will be asked to provide symptom specific information. School absence reporters will keep a tally of symptoms including: respiratory, constitutional, gastrointestinal, general, neurological, rash, and unknown. The totals for each symptom are sent to the Health Department for data analysis. The Health Department will provide schools weekly surveillance reports that highlight all the absences associated with illnesses. From these reports the Health Department may make a recommendation for the school to follow a different sanitizing protocol, teach students proper hand washing techniques or, worst case scenario, instruct the school to be closed.

What do we need from guardians? We need those who are calling in the absence to list a few of the symptoms the student is experiencing. For example, if your child has the flu, please state that when leaving a message or talking with the person recording the absence. If you do not know what specific illness your student has but you do know they have symptoms such as headache and fever, please state those symptoms to the reporter. Any information regarding the symptoms the student is experiencing will enhance our efforts in being proactive in combating illnesses within the school. If you are reporting a non-illness absence, please explain the reason as well. By providing specific information, this also allows us to document the absence appropriately. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the office at 419-749-9100, ext. 2000. Thank you.