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Burlington County Health Dept.
Raphael Meadow Health Center
15 Pioneer Boulevard, Westampton
P.O. Box 6000
Mount Holly, N.J. 08060

Tele: (609) 265-5548
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August 23, 2006

Dear School Official:

The Burlington County Health Department is asking for your help during the 2006-07 school year in monitoring influenza-like illness in our county. Your weekly report will aid us in our surveillance efforts and enable us to quickly identify any potential outbreaks of influenza or influenza-like illness. Partnering on surveillance with ones local health department is included in the federal government's pandemic influenza preparedness checklist for schools issued this past spring. In addition, surveillance is a key component of our bioterrorism preparedness program as many potential bioterrorist agents cause influenza-like symptoms.

Here is how your school can help:

> ➢ Have your school nurse and/or attendance officer fax to us the number of students enrolled in your school and the number of students absent on Tuesday of each week school is in session.
> ➢ If the information is available to you, we are also interested in how many students are absent due to respiratory symptoms like colds, coughs, fevers, and sore throats.
> ➢ This report would be due every Tuesday by the end of the school day.

A copy of the surveillance report form has been enclosed with this letter for your use. You will find our fax number on the report form.

If you have any questions about participating in this surveillance program, I encourage you to contact me at (609) 265-5531 or JHorner@co.burlington.nj.us. Also, if the Burlington County Health Department can be of any assistance to your school, please let us know. We appreciate your participation in this program and look forward to working with you. We wish you a healthy and productive school year.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Horner, MSN, MPH, RN, APN, C
Public Health Epidemiologist
Burlington County Health Department