



NEWS RELEASE

DECEMBER 18, 2019 (Shakopee, MN) - Shakopee Public Schools is continuing to monitor the number of influenza-related illnesses (ILI) and symptoms among students and staff.

The Wednesday report shows four schools have seen an increase and five schools have seen a decrease in the number of student absences due to ILI. The Shakopee school district is encouraged that West Middle School and Sun Path Elementary, the two buildings of significant concern, have seen a drop in the number of ILI student absences reported on Wednesday.

School districts are required to contact the Minnesota Department of Health when 5% of the student body is absent and reporting “influenza-like illnesses”, or ILI. The MDH expects school district reporting of ILI to include the following: influenza, influenza-like symptoms, and all other unspecified illnesses.

The below chart represents a breakdown of ILI student absences being reported as of 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, December 18. The chart also shows a comparison to the student absences reported at the same time on December 17.

Reported Influenza-like Illnesses (ILI)

School	Tuesday, December 17 11:30AM UPDATE	Wednesday, December 18 11:30AM UPDATE
West Middle School	29.12%	22.34%
Sun Path Elementary School	19.76%	18.58%
Sweeney Elementary School	8.12%	10.23%
East Middle School	6.86%	7.94%
Red Oak Elementary School	5.85%	6.58%
Jackson Elementary	4.78%	4.76%
Eagle Creek Elementary	4.67%	4.40%
Shakopee High School	3.34%	4.16%
Tokata Learning Center	3.19%	2.13%

Ashley McCray, Communications and Public Relations Supervisor

As a reminder, Shakopee schools encourages parents and guardians to keep their students home if they are exhibiting flu-related symptoms such as fever, dry cough, sore throat, headache, extreme tiredness, and body aches. These symptoms usually begin suddenly and may be severe enough to stop your daily activities.

The Department of Health offers the following guidance to protect one's self and others:

- Get vaccinated.
- Avoid being around others who are sick.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, or cough or sneeze into your sleeve.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Protect infants by not exposing them to large crowds or sick family members when flu is in your community.
- Do not share drinking cups and straws.
- Frequently clean commonly touched surfaces (door knobs, refrigerator handles, phones, water faucets).

Similar to Tuesday, the district's custodial staff is continuing their efforts to frequently clean commonly touched surfaces in our schools.

Additionally, all schools will continue to follow their building schedules for the rest of the week.