



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
EXECUTIVE CHAMBERS

M. JODI RELL
GOVERNOR

August 2009

Dear Students, Parents, Educators & Staff:

As the 2009/2010-year begins, I wish to welcome you back to school. Over the summer, the Connecticut Departments of Public Health and Education have been working closely with school administrators, school medical directors and local health directors to reinforce preparations in the event of an illness or outbreak in the school setting. This is particularly timely given last spring's emergence of the novel H1N1 (swine) flu virus.

The H1N1 virus has been shown to affect school-aged children disproportionately, and children are known to be highly likely to transmit flu viruses, especially in school and other group settings. It is critical, therefore, for individuals, families and entire school communities to use simple preventative measures to slow disease transmission. It is also important that we, as state and local leaders, focus attention on how we can work together in state-local partnership this year to assure that the risk of exposure to students, staff and families is minimized and, at the same time, make sure that we do so with the least disruption to the educational process.

Commissioners McQuillan and Galvin and I are prepared to support you in these efforts and we look forward to working with you this year to achieve these goals.

In addition, you will find up-to-the-minute and accurate information regarding novel H1N1 in Connecticut – or any other illness or outbreak that may affect your school system - by regularly checking <http://www.ct.gov/ctfluwatch>, or by signing up for the DPH Twitter site @ctdph.

Best wishes for a healthy and productive school year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Jodi Rell".

M. Jodi Rell
Governor
State of Connecticut