



NEWARK

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February 6, 2025

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Newark City Schools (NCS) and the Licking County Health Department (LCHD) have been monitoring school absences related to respiratory illness, such as influenza, at Carson Elementary School and currently over 30% of the student population has been reported to be absent from school due to illness. As a result, NCS and LCHD have made the decision to close Carson Elementary School on February 7, 2025, to allow for increased cleaning and disinfection at the school.

LCHD tracks influenza cases and activity is “high” across the county. This is not unusual for this time of the year, and we will continue to track these numbers moving forward.

Typical Influenza (flu) Symptoms include:

- Fever
- Myalgia (muscle aches)
- Sore Throat
- Cough
- Headache
- Runny or stuffy nose

Transmission

Flu viruses are transmitted from person to person through droplet spread (coughs and sneezes), direct contact with nasopharyngeal secretions, such as a runny nose, or via objects recently contaminated with secretions.

Action Steps

- Staff and students experiencing flu symptoms should stay home and not return to school or other activities until their symptoms are getting better and at least 24 hours have passed since last fever without the use of fever-reducing medication.
- People with symptoms should consult with a physician for medical evaluation.

We will continue to work with NCS to monitor this situation, and we will provide updates if they are necessary.

If you have questions, please call the Licking County Health Department at 740-349-6535 and request to talk to a member of the Communicable Disease Team.

Sincerely,
Chad Brown, MPH, REHS
Licking County Health Commissioner