



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 21, 2009

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## **School District, Health Department to look into high absenteeism**

The Kane County Health and the St Charles School District 303, along with the Illinois Department of Public Health, have begun looking into the large number of absences that occurred at St. Charles East High School on Monday and Tuesday of this week.

With about 900 students absent on Tuesday, the School District closed the school for the rest of the week.

“It is unclear what was driving these absentees, or how many were due to influenza-like illnesses, and we want to find out why so many students were out,” said Paul Kuehnert, Executive Director of the Health Department. “Although these large numbers are a cause for concern, it’s not cause for alarm. We expect our investigation will take several days.”

The Health Department continues to conduct monitoring in all the school districts in the county. Currently, none has reached the threshold of 5% of the student body absent with an Influenza-like Illness. Once a school reaches the 5% threshold, the Kane County Health Department provides consultation and guidance to public and private schools based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s recommendations.

Influenza-like illness is defined as having a fever of more than 100 with a cough or sore throat without other known causes.

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