

H1N1 becomes issue faced by BHS students and faculty

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Editor-in-Chief

Recently, District 87 sent a letter to parents and guardians of students in the district regarding the outbreak of the H1N1 virus in schools. District 87 is working with the McLean County Health Department to combat the spread of the H1N1 virus.

The letter informed parents and students of the symptoms of the flu and what to do if the student contracts the virus.

Symptoms of the H1N1 virus include a fever of 100 degrees or more, a sore throat, chills, a headache, sore muscles, fatigue, a runny nose, and vomiting and diarrhea.

"H1N1 can make you feel really sick, with a cough, fever, headache, dizziness, and fatigue and it's not just 'I stayed up too late' fatigue," said Bloomington High School's nurse, Mrs. Michelle Maurer. "You will know when you have it."

She says that students do need to stay home if they exhibit the symptoms; they need to follow physician's advice, and take all prescribed medication.

"H1N1 is a mild to moderate illness, there are some severe cases, but usually those people have underlying medical conditions," said Mrs. Maurer.

McLean County experienced its first death recently, but that person did have other medical conditions. In Naperville, a high school student died, but the student also had several other health problems.

To be confirmed for H1N1, a person has to be admitted to the hospital or they can go to an independent lab and get tested for \$700.

"Many students are screened for Influenza A [when they go to the doctor]," said Mrs. Maurer.

H1N1 is a variety of Influenza A and people who test positive for Influenza A are given Tamiflu to relieve the symptoms.

"If the test is positive, it does not necessarily mean that the student has H1N1," said Mrs. Maurer. "There are other Influenza A viruses than just H1N1."

There have been some misconceptions about the virus around the school, one being that the school is going to be shut down, but Mrs. Maurer says that are no plans to close the schools. There have also been some other misconceptions regarding the flu vaccination.

"One of the biggest misconceptions is that if someone receives the H1N1 vaccine they will be at risk of getting H1N1 or it will leave them with [something] horrible, such as paralysis," said Mrs. Maurer.

The vaccination consists of genetic compounds of the flu; it is not a live virus. The nasal spray, however, contains a live virus.

Mrs. Maurer says that she has heard that some people think that H1N1 is a conspiracy theory to take people's minds off of the economic struggles.

"Students come in and imply by their facial expressions that they think [H1N1] is very dangerous and I try to reassure them that is it a mild to moderate illness," said Mrs. Maurer.

New video game breaks records and makes history

REID GOLOWSKI
Writer

Every few years, there is at least one video game that is predicted to surpass previous records set in the years before it. In 2007, that game was Halo 3; in 2008, it was Grand Theft Auto IV. Now, in 2009, the most anticipated video game title of the year, Modern Warfare 2 has arrived.

In 2007, Halo 3 set the stage for the fastest selling game in history. However, it was replaced in 2008 by Grand Theft Auto IV, which sold \$310 million worth of units in its first week worldwide.

According to Yahoo Games, internal figures released by Activision reveal that Modern Warfare 2 has smashed any previous records; grossing \$310 million in just 24 hours, and those sales only apply to North America and the United Kingdom. Modern Warfare 2, the sixth title in the Call of Duty series and the sequel



(Above) The game has become very popular among students at BHS. (Left) Senior Zach Green plays Call of Duty Modern Warfare at his home.

Francesca Pelusi

to the 2007 hit Modern Warfare, is the latest game by Infinity Ward. It was released Nov. 10. The game was expected to break every sale record previously set to its release. There was much anticipation for the game. Early reviews of the game were positive, and the critical reviews popping up this week all stating that Modern Warfare 2 is the best Call of Duty game yet.

"I love everything about the game, it really is so much better than I expected it to be," said senior Sam Redd.

Modern Warfare 2 not only eclipsed sales of many hot video games, but it also destroyed the record-setting \$150 million earned by last year's "The Dark Knight" in its opening weekend.

If these early figures are any indication, Modern Warfare 2 should be the largest single video game release in history by a wide margin.