

Dear Parents/Guardians,

October 15, 2009

This letter is to inform you that the Greenwood School District has received notification of a clinical diagnosis of the H1N1 influenza virus regarding a middle school student. We are following the guidelines provided by the Pennsylvania Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control (CDC). District officials are working closely with these organizations to monitor this and future cases of the H1N1 flu virus.

Influenza is usually spread person-to-person through coughing or sneezing. According to the Pennsylvania Department of Health, symptoms of H1N1 flu virus in people are expected to be similar to the symptoms of seasonal flu and include high fever, sore throat, fatigue, lack of appetite, and coughing. Some people with H1N1 flu virus have also reported runny nose, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea.

If you have concerns regarding your child's health, please contact his/her primary care provider. It is also very important to report a diagnosed or a suspected infectious condition to the school nurse. As always, such health information is kept strictly confidential.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the Pennsylvania Department of Health do not advise school closures or dismissal. Both organizations continue to express the importance of students, faculty, and staff stringently following sanitary measures to reduce the spread of influenza, including the following:

- Encourage frequent hand washing. Proper hand washing practices mean using warm water, soap, and scrubbing for a minimum of 20 seconds.
- Remind your children to cover their nose and mouth with a tissue when sneezing or coughing. Dispose of the tissue after it is used. If a tissue is not available, children should sneeze or cough into the bend of their elbow instead of their hands.
- Remind your children not to share personal items like drinks, food, or unwashed utensils.
- Remind your children to avoid touching their eyes, nose, or mouth, as this can spread germs.
- Students are advised to remain home for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever, or signs of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medicines. They should stay home even if they are using antiviral drugs.

For more information on the H1N1 flu virus, please visit the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services at www.flu.gov and/or the Pennsylvania Department of Health at www.h1n1inpa.com.

Please be assured that we take the health, safety, and wellness of every student and staff member seriously. We will continue to monitor this situation closely and work with officials at the Pennsylvania Department of Health. We thank you for your cooperation as we work together to maintain a healthy school community.

Sincerely,

Ed Burns, Superintendent