

☞ Washington Township School District ☞  
"Making a Difference"

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May 5, 2009

Dear Parent/Guardians:

Re: H1N1 Flu (Swine Flu)

We continue to monitor the current outbreak of H1N1 (Swine) flu in the state. On Monday the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services reports 2 newly confirmed cases of H1N1 Influenza A: a 22-year old Burlington County female and a 12-year old Somerset female. The department reports that both cases are mild, neither individual was hospitalized and that both are recovering at home. As a result of these latest results, there are now 7 confirmed cases and one probable case of 2009 H1N1 Influenza A in New Jersey. See NJDHSS website: [http://www.state.nj.us/cgi-bin/dhss/njnewsline/view\\_article.pl?id=3345](http://www.state.nj.us/cgi-bin/dhss/njnewsline/view_article.pl?id=3345)

During a conference-call with Lucille Davy, NJDOE Commissioner of Education, Ms. Davy told New Jersey school superintendents that schools need to continue to encourage good hygiene and health habits. Ms. Davy strongly suggested that districts communicate to parents and staff that children and adults who exhibit flu-like symptoms need to stay home. She advised of a New Jersey hot line phone number, 866-321-9251, where the latest information could be found.

The Commissioner also shared NJ State health officials' "prevailing guidance" related to the H1N1 flu and NJ school's extra-curricular activities. School officials were told, "At this time there is no need to curtail after-school athletics." After-school sports should be "business as usual." When asked about class trips, the Commissioner suggested that school officials "consult with the local health authorities in the city in which they are traveling to make a determination as to whether the trip should be made."

Our school nurses report that there is an increase in the number of students that they are seeing, but they attribute that to parents telling their children to go to the health office for an assessment. Student absences in both buildings, however, remain average or slightly below average for this time of year. To date we have not cancelled any of our class trips. We have begun to communicate with the local health authorities in each trip location and will make a determination on a case-by-case basis. Parents may always choose to keep their child home and not send them on a field trip. In the event you do not wish your child to attend the field trip, but plan on sending your child to school, know that grade-level appropriate programming will be available for your child. If you have questions about your child's trip, please contact your child's teacher.

Sincerely yours,

Roger A. Jinks  
Superintendent of Schools