



SOUTH WESTERN SCHOOL DISTRICT

225 Bowman Road, Hanover, Pennsylvania 17331-4297 (717) 632-2500

October 9, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to you with the hopes of increasing your understanding of the actions that we are taking with regard to H1N1. The health and safety of children are top priorities. At this time, we are carefully following recommendations of the Pennsylvania Department of Health, Pennsylvania Department of Education, and the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. I want you to know that there has been at least one case of confirmed H1N1 in each school building.

Here are the actions that the school district is taking. Staff members have been made aware of common symptoms and preventative measures. Teachers and students have been given information about appropriate hygiene practices. Teachers are also regularly reminding students to use hand sanitizer, which we are providing to all teachers. Our school nurses are being especially vigilant upon the return of students to ensure the health of the other students

I would appreciate if you would reinforce our education efforts by discussing the following with your child:

- ◆ When coughing or sneezing, cover your nose and mouth with tissue, or use your sleeve (not your hands).
- ◆ Wash your hands often with soap and water (all classrooms have been equipped with hand sanitizers).
- ◆ Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.
- ◆ Try to avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- ◆ Stay healthy by eating a balanced diet, drinking plenty of water, and getting plenty of rest and exercise.

Our custodial staff has stepped up efforts to disinfect all touch points in the buildings. This includes all crash bars on exit doors and knobs on classroom doors. In addition, all touch points in restrooms and desktops are being disinfected on a continual basis.

The school district is also working with the York/Adams Metropolitan Medical Response System (YAMMRS) to provide H1N1 vaccinations to all students whose parents provide written consent.

Please review the parent letters and consent forms which were sent home with students on October 7, 2009. If your child did not bring them home, please contact your child's school or visit the district's website at www.swsd.k12.pa.us to download the forms. Additional information regarding the H1N1 virus can also be viewed on our website, which is being regularly updated.

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Please follow the recommendations from the Pennsylvania Department of Health if your child has a flu (www.h1n1inpa.com): "The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends you stay home until at least 24 hours after your fever is gone, leaving the house only to get medical care. Schools and workplaces are encouraging this policy to avoid infecting other students and employees."

I appreciate your cooperation. Please know that as the situation changes, I will do my very best to keep you informed.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara A. Rupp". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'B' and 'R'.

Barbara A. Rupp
Superintendent

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