

October 16, 2009

Dear Delton Kellogg Students, Families and Staff:

The flu season is upon us, and like many other areas of the state, Delton students and staff have been impacted.

This letter is to provide you with an update regarding H1N1 Influenza (swine flu) and how we are responding to the recent outbreak in our area.

In the past week we have seen a significant increase in the number of students who are home ill and have the symptoms of the flu: fever, coughing, headaches, body aches, etc.

Yesterday, October 15, 2009, superintendents in the Barry and Eaton Counties met with Steve Tackitt from the Barry-Eaton District Health Department to receive an update on the H1N1 situation, and receive recommendations on how to address it in our schools.

During that meeting we learned the following:

- The cost for processing an H1N1 test is \$300 so many doctors are diagnosing according to symptoms or a “rapid test” in the office. Symptoms may include a fever, cough, body aches, head aches.
- The Health Department estimates that approximately 90% of the flu cases are of the H1N1 type.
- Staff and students should NOT come to school until they have been fever free for at least 24 hours after the fever has broken without the influence of fever medication.
- The H1N1 virus lives outside the body for 8 hours.
- People can be contagious for up to 7 days prior to exhibiting any symptoms.
- Schools should treat the H1N1 outbreak just as they would treat the seasonal flu.
- The H1N1 is a new form of the flu so the vast majority of people do not have any immunity to this flu.
- The H1N1 flu will not be just a seasonal flu...it is anticipated that this flu will continue throughout the school year and potentially into the coming summer.
- Closing school is not recommended.

Student safety is always our number one priority. We have done several things to address the potential spread of the flu this year:

- Increased the daily cleaning of the classrooms and frequently used spaces in the schools.
- Frequent disinfecting (at least daily) of the student desk tops, light switches, door handles, lockers, and drinking fountains.

- Hand sanitizer is provided and used multiple times a day in classrooms and the entry to the cafeterias.
- Students are periodically dismissed during the day to wash their hands.
- Elementary children are receiving instruction in their technology class through fun online activities about how to wash their hands properly.
- Students in computer labs are wiping the keyboards prior to use.
- Bus drivers are wiping down the buses (seats, door handles, etc.) after the morning runs and any other time the bus will be used in less than 8 hours.
- Students and staff who appear to have a flu-like illness upon arrival at school, or who become sick during the school day are being sent home.

We are continuing to monitor the attendance in all of the schools and have seen a significant increase in the number of students who are home sick this past week. If the number of absences exceeds 25% of the total student population, we will consult with the Barry-Eaton Health Department to determine whether or not to close school for the following day(s).

Our school staff have been in daily contact with the Barry-Eaton Health Department and will continue to work in cooperation with them to help keep all of our students and staff healthy. We have asked them to allow Delton Kellogg Schools to be a school-based vaccine clinic when the vaccine becomes available in this area. Mr. Tackitt indicated this would be a possibility. We will notify you if this becomes a reality.

In the meantime, for more information on H1N1 you can go to [www.barryeatonhealth.org](http://www.barryeatonhealth.org) or [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov). If you have specific questions about anything in this letter or how the schools are responding to the flu situation, you are welcome to contact me or the school principals.

Thank you for all you are doing to teach your children about good hygiene and for keeping them home when they are ill.

Sincerely,



Cindy Vujea

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