



FERNDALE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Office of the Superintendent

Harding Administration Center
2920 Burdette • Ferndale, MI 48220 • Phone 248/586-8652 • Fax 248/586-8655

October 28, 2009

Dear Ferndale School Families:

The H1N1 flu has received a lot of attention recently in the media. At the beginning of the school year, we provided information to parents/guardians and school staff about procedures that can be used to minimize the impact of the flu. I am writing to you today to further update you on our school district's plan to respond to the flu as more outbreaks of the flu are occurring in our region. I've also included some information about the H1N1 flu to help you keep your family healthy.

Initially, I want to thank you for keeping your children home when they have flu symptoms and for reporting your child's illness to your school office when they do stay home. As with any communicable disease, when we learn of flu cases in our schools, we will be reporting numbers of students with the flu to the Oakland County Health Division. We will not be notifying our school community of each confirmed case. To date in this school year, we have only learned of one unconfirmed case.

Most importantly, I want you to know that we are taking all appropriate precautions from a cleaning perspective in our schools. Door handles, desk surfaces, restrooms, and other similar areas are sanitized daily. We plan to continue this proactive approach throughout the flu season.

You may have also heard that some schools and school districts are closing as a result of the flu. The reason these districts are closing is that when a school district's attendance falls below 75%, one day of state funding is reduced from the school district's state aid. We will regularly monitor attendance in the Ferndale Schools to determine if closing school is an option. As always, we will post information about school closings on our website and through our email fan-out. If a school is closed for any reason, the Health Division suggests students not gather at another location, but instead stay at home to avoid continued spread of flu outside of school.

Symptoms of H1N1 flu can include fever (although not everyone will have a fever) cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills, fatigue and sometimes diarrhea and vomiting. Most people who have had the 2009 H1N1 have had mild illness and have not needed medical care or antiviral drugs. However, some people (those under age five, pregnant women,

or those who have chronic illnesses including asthma and diabetes) are more likely to experience flu complications and they should talk to a health care provider for further prevention guidance. Rare complications such as severe cough, chest pain, dehydration, listlessness, dizziness or confusion should be reported to a doctor immediately.

Additionally, I want you to know how you can help us minimize the number of students who become ill this school year by following these recommendations.

Prevention:

- Wash hands often with soap and hot water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid contact with infected or sick people whenever possible.
- Avoid touching your nose, eyes, or mouth.
- Review the latest information on the H1N1 virus and available vaccination updated regularly on the Oakland County Health Division's website, www.oakgov.com/health

If you or your children become ill:

- Stay home and avoid contact with others, except to seek medical care.
- Report illness to the School Office. If you believe your child has a case of H1N1 flu, call a doctor for treatment guidelines. Report all communicable diseases to your school offices, and provide any documentation of H1N1 flu from a doctor.
- Return to school only after all symptoms subside and a fever is gone for at least 24 hours without the aid of fever reducing medication such as Tylenol.
- Cough or sneeze into your sleeve. Wash hands after sneezing into a tissue or hand, and dispose of tissues properly.

As always, the Ferndale Schools will continue to make decisions based on the recommendations of county and state public health organizations as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and will keep you updated with new information as it becomes available.

Sincerely yours,



Gary W. Meier, Superintendent
Ferndale Public Schools

c. Board of Education
School District Staff