



Empowering Life-Long Learners

PENNCREST School District

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

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May 6, 2009

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Staff:

As you may already know, an outbreak of NIH1 (Swine Flu) has caused the U. S. to issue a public health emergency. Although we do not have any known cases in our immediate area at this point, all of us must be proactive and implement good hygienic practices to limit the spread of viruses such as NIH1 and protect the health of our students and staff. We can help prevent the spread of influenza referring to current guidelines:

- Regular Hand Washing is the single most important preventative measure in preventing the spread of influenza. We encourage both students and staff to wash hands with soap and warm water for at least 15 to 20 seconds to be effective. When soap and water are not available, alcohol-based gel sanitizers should be used.
- Because influenza causes illness by entering the body through the eyes, nose, or mouth, avoid touching any of these areas of your body without first properly washing or sanitizing hands.
- Because influenza can only live outside a host body for about two hours, our custodial staff is continuing to implement our regular disinfection procedures which include but are not limited to: daily cleaning and disinfecting hard surface areas such as student desks, drinking fountains, restrooms and providing hand sanitizers in cafeteria and computer areas. You may wish to do the same with hard surfaces at home.
- Anyone with flu-like symptoms should recuperate at home to limit the spread of the infection.

Our school district nurses are staying informed and monitoring the NIH1 situation daily. The PA Department to Health provides periodic e-mail updates to school nurses and to schools through the PENN*Link notification system. The Crawford County Office of Emergency Management also provides regular updates to school district administrators.

If you would like additional information, please refer to the following internet links:

NIH1: General Information: http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/general_info.htm

Questions & Answers: NIH1 & You: http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/swineflu_you.htm

What's New on the NIH1 Site: <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/whatsnew.htm>

I assure you that the health and well-being of our students and staff is our top priority. Please feel free to contact your building principal if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Richard A. Borchilo
Superintendent of Schools