



WALLENPAUPACK AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

2552 Route 6
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(570) 226-4557 ext. 3000
Fax: (570) 226-0638

Lorraine L. Kloss, Ed.D.

Assistant Superintendent

Joann Hudak, Ed.D.

Director of Secondary Education

Michael R. Silsby

Superintendent

Kerriann Horan

Business Manager

Jennie Hildebrand

Board Secretary

September 9, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians:

In June, the World Health Organization declared that the H1N1 flu virus had reached pandemic levels. As we begin a new school year we are taking steps to reduce the spread of the flu in our school district. We want to keep school open to students and functioning in a safe manner during this flu season.

We are working closely with the PA Department of Education, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the PA Department of Health to monitor flu conditions and make decisions about the best steps to take concerning schools. We will keep you updated with new information as it becomes available.

In an effort to reduce the spread of the flu please review the following precautions with your children:

- **Teach your children to wash their hands** often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub. You can set a good example by doing this yourself.
- **Teach your children not to share personal items** like drinks, food or unwashed utensils, and to cover their coughs and sneezes with tissues. Covering up their coughs or sneezes using the elbow, arm or sleeve instead of the hand when a tissue is unavailable.
- **Know the signs and symptoms of the flu.** Symptoms of the flu include fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit, 37.8 degrees Celsius or greater), cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and feeling very tired. Some people may also vomit or have diarrhea.
- **Keep sick children at home** for at least 24 hours **after** they no longer have a fever without the use of fever-reducing drugs. Keeping children with a fever at home will reduce the number of people who may get infected.
- **Do not send children to school if they are sick.** Any children who are determined to be sick while at school **will be sent home.**

For more information, visit www.flu.gov or call **1-800-CDC-INFO**. We will notify you of any additional changes to our school's strategy in the prevention of the H1N1 flu. Consistent use of general hygiene precautions is our best defense against all flu viruses. Let's all work together to avoid the spread of disease.

Sincerely,

Michael R. Silsby
Superintendent



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