

Announcement Regarding Swine-Origin Influenza A (H1N1)

Hunterdon Central has been notified by the Hunterdon County Department of Health that a student at Hunterdon Central has tested positive for Swine Origin Influenza A (H1N1). A small number of additional students have also been tested for Swine Origin Influenza A (H1N1) and it is probable that these results will also be positive.

The most recent Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines do **NOT** call for closing schools upon confirmation of Swine-Origin Influenza A (H1N1). The CDC currently recommends not closing schools unless the magnitude of faculty or student absenteeism interferes with the school's ability to function. This is not the case at Hunterdon Central.

Therefore, Hunterdon Central will not be closing because of these Swine-origin Influenza A (H1N1) results, but will continue with the regular school calendar for the remainder of the 2008-2009 school year.

Hunterdon Central also would like to reassure the members of our community that we are, and have been, in compliance with all CDC recommendations concerning Swine-Origin Influenza A (H1N1). The CDC has stated that the primary means to reduce spread of influenza in schools should focus on:

- identifying ill students and staff early
- requiring students and staff to stay home when ill
- emphasizing the importance of good cough and hand hygiene

Since April, 2009, Hunterdon Central has been implementing these CDC recommendations and will continue to do so for the remainder of the school year. Students, faculty or staff with influenza-like illness have been required to stay home for at least 7 days, even if symptoms resolve sooner. Students, faculty and staff who appear to have an influenza-like illness upon their arrival, or who become ill during the school day, are isolated promptly in a Nurses Office and then sent home.

To help curb the spread of Swine-Origin Influenza A (H1N1), we ask all our Hunterdon Central families to follow these guidelines:

- Be aware of the symptoms of Swine-Origin Influenza A (H1N1). These are similar to the symptoms of seasonal flu and include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. A significant number of people who have been infected with this virus also have reported diarrhea and vomiting.
- Monitor the health of your children; faculty and staff should self-monitor.
- Students and staff members with flu-like symptoms must stay at home for 7 days from the onset of symptoms, even if their symptoms resolve sooner.

- Students or faculty who appear to have an influenza-like illness upon their arrival, or who become ill during the day, will be isolated promptly in the Nurse's Office and sent home.
- Parents and students with chronic health conditions who are at higher risk for seasonal influenza complications should contact their physician for additional guidance. This is also advisable for staff with chronic health conditions.
- Hunterdon Central will continue to emphasize the importance of hand-washing and covering of coughs, and we ask that you also emphasize the importance of these good hygiene habits.

Again, we assure you that Hunterdon Central is following all CDC, State and local health department guidelines in this matter. The health and safety of our children is our utmost priority and we will remain vigilant in monitoring the situation and thoroughly implementing all guidelines throughout the remainder of this school year.

Information on Swine-Origin Influenza A (H1N1) is available from the following websites:

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu>

<http://www.cdc.gov/Other/languages/>

<http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/deaf.htm>

<http://www.nj.gov/health/er/h1n1>

<http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/health.htm>