



Duanesburg Central School District

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Delanson, NY 12053
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"To be a socially responsible school community where learning and the pursuit of excellence are valued."

April 29, 2009

Dear Parents,

In the last few days, local and national media have provided significant coverage of the swine flu infection, which is causing many people to worry. We wanted to take this opportunity to address your concerns and provide you with some basic information and resources that you might find helpful.

New York State has entered a heightened surveillance stage resulting from the presence of the swine flu virus that is making people sick in several states, including New York. Today it was reported that the Schenectady County Health Department is monitoring two individuals from the county who may have contracted the virus.

Please know the Duanesburg school officials are working closely with state and local health officials to monitor the local and statewide situation.

The state and health departments have advised us that students can continue to come to school, as long as they are not sick and do not think they have flu symptoms. These symptoms include, fever (more than 100 degrees F.), cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle pain, fatigue and sometimes vomiting or diarrhea.

Flu spreads easily. **If you suspect your child is getting the flu, it is important that he/she does not attend school or go anywhere else**, such as group childcare, the mall or sporting events where other people would be exposed to flu germs. It is also important to teach your children how to reduce their risk of getting the flu and protect others from infection.

- Teach your children to wash their hands often. Washing with soap and hot water for at least 20 seconds is ideal. Be sure to set a good example by doing this yourself.
- Teach your children the proper use of hand sanitizer. Gels, rubs, and hand wipes all work well, as long as they contain at least 60% alcohol. Hand wipes must be disposed of properly. Always read and follow label instructions when using hand sanitizer.
- Teach your children to keep their hands away from their face and avoid touching their mouth, nose or eyes.
- Teach your children to cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or by coughing into the inside of their elbow. Cough or sneeze into your sleeve—not your hands!

While the current situation does not warrant school closure, if swine flu were ever to spread and more students became ill, it is possible that schools could be closed for a period of time. We will continue to work with local and state health officials and all decisions relating to this situation will be made in consultation with them.

In the event school needs to be closed, please do not make arrangements—such as sending children to a friend’s home or group childcare—that will put them in close contact with other children. It is important to plan ahead, and we encourage you to have a family discussion now to consider your options in the event of a school closing.

Please keep in mind that this is an evolving situation, and we are providing this information as a precautionary measure at this time.

Please stay informed by paying attention to media reports. You may also get information at www.cdc.gov, www.nyhealth.gov, www.schoolhealthservicesny.com or the 24 hour toll-free hotline that New Yorkers can use to get answers to their questions. The number is 1-800-808-1987.

Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our children and our schools healthy.

Sincerely,

Christine Crowley
Superintendent