



CONSTANCE HUBBARD
SUPERINTENDENT

PIEDMONT UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

760 Magnolia Avenue • Piedmont, California 94611-4087 • (510) 594-2614
October 27, 2009

Dear Parent(s),

The District has received parent reports that several of our students, across the District, have been diagnosed with the H1N1 flu virus. This is not surprising given the fact that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have predicted that the H1N1 flu virus will be prevalent this flu season. As the flu season progresses, we are anticipating increasing numbers of students and staff will be affected by the H1N1 virus. We also anticipate students and staff will be afflicted by typical seasonal flu. As indicated on the CDC website, most states, including California, are already experiencing widespread flu outbreaks. Whether we are at school or in the community, it is likely that we will be exposed to individuals with the H1N1 virus.

To date, all sites have shared the CDC's recommended precautionary measures with teachers and staff. The District has installed wall mounted hand sanitizers as a means to increase the probability that everyone will regularly clean their hands. The District has also provided a workshop, delivered by a bio-hazards specialist, to custodial staff, who are cleansing/sanitizing hand surfaces throughout the sites with greater frequency. Administrative support staffs, who are in close proximity to sick students that wait in the office for parents, also participated in this workshop.

Additionally, the sites are reporting H1N1 cases to the District Office. We will monitor any unusual escalation in the prevalence of the flu and communicate with the public health department in the event we have a severe outbreak. It is likely that many more students will be impacted by H1N1 than will be formally diagnosed by a doctor.

Parents have received a communication regarding precautionary measures that families are encouraged to implement. This communication is posted on the District website. If your student is exhibiting flu-like symptoms, please keep them at home or pick them up from school if symptoms emerge during the school day.

The District is working to identify a provider of H1N1 vaccinations.

A number of questions have arisen about our response to confirmed cases of H1N1. These include:

- 1. Will the site or District notify parents or students when a case of H1N1 is confirmed in a classroom or at a school site?** No. The District and sites will respond as we would with any other cases of the flu. We believe that notifying groups of parents or students will create undue anxiety and we have an obligation to protect the confidentiality of students and staff who may be afflicted. The public health department concurs with this approach. We will monitor the situation closely and keep in contact with the public health department, in case the prevalence rate of the flu becomes severe.
- 2. How long should an individual remain at home if they have a case of H1N1?** Similar to the recommendations regarding the seasonal flu, the CDC is encouraging individuals to remain at home until at least 24 hours after signs of a fever or a fever have passed.
- 3. Will we close sites where there are confirmed cases of H1N1?** Although the public health department was encouraging school closures last spring, in schools where even a few cases of H1N1 were identified, that is not the prevailing recommendation. A school closure would only occur in instances where a severe outbreak was identified and the public health department was making such a recommendation.

The H1N1 flu virus is an unfortunate reality that we are confronted with and all of us must work together to ensure that precautionary measures are being utilized in a reasonable manner.

David Roth, Ph.D.

Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services