

Dear Parents and Guardians:

September 2009

As we enter the new school year and the traditional influenza season, we expect Wisconsin to continue seeing cases of the new pandemic flu. School and public health officials are working to keep our children safe and healthy. *We need your help!*

We want to let you know what we will be doing to respond to H1N1 flu and how we will be providing information to you. The district will continue to (1) consult with and take direction from local and state public health authorities, (2) monitor student and staff absence rates, and (3) actively promote personal protective measures to prevent the spread of illness. (4) We have learned that information changes quickly with this outbreak. We plan to use our website <http://www.deerfield.k12.wi.us> to provide the links to the most up to date information. We may also send home notes with students as needed.

At this time, health and school officials are not recommending school closures for individual cases of H1N1 flu. However, as with regular seasonal flu, we might recommend closing schools if larger numbers of students or faculty become ill.

The following are four important things you and your family can do to help stay healthy and keep others safe:

- **Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.**
- **Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hands cleaners are also effective.**
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs spread that way.**
- **The most important thing you can do is to keep your child home if he or she is ill. Each morning, parents and caregivers should check their children and other family members for flu symptoms such as fever greater than 100 degrees, cough, or sore throat.**

All sick students should stay out of school for at least 24 hours after fever is gone without use of Tylenol® or Ibuprofen®. Students will likely be home 3-5 days. Children who are ill upon arrival at school or become ill during the school day will be sent home. **Notify the school of all flu-like absences and symptoms or confirmed cases of pandemic flu.**

More information about the new H1N1 flu is available on the following web sites:

<http://pandemic.wi.gov/>

<http://www.cdc.gov>

<http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html>

Thank you for your patience and cooperation during this time. With your help, we can help keep everyone safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Michelle R. Jensen
District Administrator

Barb Bendall
School Nurse