

# School District of Mayville

234 N. John Street  
Mayville, WI 53050

Office of the District Administrator  
Phone: 920-387-7963 Ext. 101

September 24, 2009

Dear Parent/Legal Guardians and School Staff,

There have been many cases of H1N1 (swine) influenza in the country and world since the outbreak was first noted in April 2009. Symptoms of H1N1 flu are similar to those of seasonal influenza: fever of 100 degrees or greater, cough, sore throat, headache, or muscle aches. Unlike seasonal flu, however, most of the confirmed cases have occurred in people between the ages of 5 and 24. So far, N1H1 flu does not appear to be as severe as seasonal flu.

We anticipate that children and staff will continue to be exposed to and infected with H1N1 influenza during the upcoming school year. At this point, there is not enough information to predict how severe H1N1 flu will be this fall.

We have learned that information changes quickly with this outbreak. We plan to use our website <http://www.mayville.k12.wi.us/> to provide links to the most up to date information from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, including the Department of Public Instruction.

When there are cases of H1N1 in school aged children, we will not be sending out school wide notification letters.

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 measures to prevent the spread of illness (e.g. hand washing and staying home when ill). We will be vigilant about making sure that soap, water and paper towels are available in our schools.

Some people are at greater risk of complications from infection with N1H1 influenza, those at higher risk include (1) children younger than 5 years old (especially those under age 2 years), (2) pregnant women, (3) people with chronic conditions such as asthma, heart disease, diabetes, diseases of the blood, liver or kidney and (4) people with immune system problems. If you have specific concerns about your child's likely exposure to H1N1 influenza while attending school, please contact your health care provider for advice.

We anticipate that schools will remain open as usual when there are cases of H1N1 influenza. The most important thing you can do is to keep you child home if he or she is ill. If your child is so sick that you would normally seek medical care, please do so. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that people with influenza-like illness remain at home until at least 24 hours after they are free of fever (100 degrees), or signs of a fever without the use of fever-reducing medications.

In addition to staying home when sick, here are three 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 hand cleaners are also effective.**
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.**

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>

School and public health officials are working together to keep our children safe and healthy. Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

Ron Bieri,  
District Administrator

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