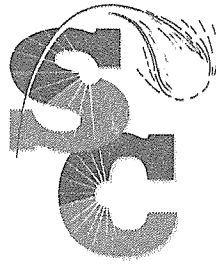


SANDY CREEK CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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Superintendent of Schools

Shelley H. Fitzpatrick
Business Administrator



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September 3, 2009

Dear SCCSD Parents/Guardians:

As you know, there has been an enormous amount of information regarding the H1N1 (Swine Flu) being provided to us by Federal and State Governments, CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), State and Local Health Departments, the State Education Department, and the Media. I am writing you today to ask you for your help in minimizing the effects H1N1 will have on our Sandy Creek children over the next several months. The School District has been working very closely with the County Health Department and will continue to do so as we proceed through the upcoming flu season.

Parents and Guardians can help by doing the following:

- **Teach your children to wash their hands often** with soap and water or use hand sanitizer. Washing their hands for 20 seconds is ideal. You can set a good example by doing this yourself. The School District will provide hand sanitizer and tissues in each classroom, cafeterias and gymnasiums.
- **Keep sick children at home** for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever or do not have signs of fever, without using fever-reducing drugs. Keeping children with a fever home will reduce the number of people who may get infected. **ALSO, do not put your sick child on a bus** so they can see the school nurse or visit the school-based health center. They could possibly infect healthy students riding the same bus. Please contact your health provider and make arrangements for a doctor's visit if necessary.
- **Teach your children not to share personal items** like drinks, food or unwashed utensils, and to cover their coughs and sneezes with

tissues. Covering up their coughs or sneezes using the elbow, arm or sleeve instead of the hand when a tissue is not available.

- **Know the signs and symptoms of the flu.** Symptoms of the flu include fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit, 37.8 degrees Celsius or greater), cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headaches, and feeling very tired. Some people may vomit or have diarrhea.
- **Childcare.** Please prepare now for childcare in case your child does get sick and you cannot miss work.
- **School Closure.** The CDC believes this strain of flu is comparable in severity to what schools would encounter with a typical seasonal flu, which does not usually force school closure. If school closure is necessary, the decision will be made in partnership with the County Health Department, School District Medical Director, and the Superintendent of Schools.
- **Updated Telephone Numbers.** If your contact telephone numbers have changed, please notify us as soon as possible.
- **Call Attendance Office.** If your child has flu like symptoms, keep them home and call our attendance office, 387-3445 ext. 1906
- **For more information visit the following websites.** www.flu.gov, www.nyhealth.gov/ServNY, or call 1-800-808-1987.

There are still many questions regarding a vaccination for H1N1. We are still waiting for those answers. The School District will notify you when we receive some information from the state and local health departments.

Thank you for your cooperation on this matter.

Sincerely,



Stewart R. Amell
Superintendent of Schools