



BETHEL PARK SCHOOL DISTRICT

Where Futures Begin

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Superintendent

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Dear Bethel Park Families:

Today the Bethel Park School District received notification of two confirmed cases of the H1N1 virus, also known as Swine Flu, at Bethel Park High School. While other students and employees in other schools throughout the district have been told over the past couple of weeks that they have H1N1 by physician's diagnosis only, these are the first two test-confirmed cases reported to the school district.

We continue to work in consultation with the Allegheny County Health Department to manage this flu season with the least disruption for our students and staff, while maintaining a healthy school environment. We will continue to monitor the situation, and at this time, our schools will remain open and operating normally.

Flu-like symptoms include: fever (over 100 degrees), cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose. Additional symptoms may be experienced, including muscle pain, fatigue and sometimes vomiting or diarrhea. **Anyone experiencing these symptoms needs to stay home for at least 24 hours after they no longer have fever or do not feel feverish without using fever-reducing drugs.**

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.

The best way to reduce the spread of H1N1 or any other virus is to maintain good hygiene practices. I encourage you to teach your children to wash their hands often, keep their hands away from their eyes, nose and mouth, and cover coughs and sneezes with their sleeve or a tissue.

Additional information regarding the H1N1 virus is available on the district's website — www.bpsd.org – as well as <http://www.bpsd.org/HealthServices/Pandemic%20Information.htm>, which includes several links to other websites that offer more detailed information about the virus, such as the Centers for Disease Control and the Allegheny County Health Department.

The health and well being of our students and staff is our top priority. Please contact your school nurse or family health care provider if you have any questions or concerns.

Working together, we can help to minimize the impact of flu season on our school district. I thank you for your continued cooperation.

Sincerely,

Thomas A. Knight

Thomas A. Knight, Ed.D.
Superintendent

MISSION

To lead an educational partnership with the community, maintaining an environment that challenges all students to reach their potential as lifelong learners and responsible members of society.