



September 4, 2009

Dear Parent or Guardian:

As many are aware, there is heightened concern and interest regarding the H1N1 Flu with the recent start of school. H1N1 Flu (also known as Swine Flu) is a new flu virus causing illness throughout the country. The virus is spreading in the same fashion that the “regular” seasonal flu spreads. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) states the virus is contagious and spreads from person to person through coughing, sneezing and/or touching infected areas. As we approach flu season, Henry County Public Schools has developed the attached “Frequently Asked Questions for Parents of Henry County Students.”

In addition, principals have the flexibility in the way schools document absences regarding H1N1 Flu, seasonal flu, and flu-like symptoms. Parents will be able to verify, by using the attached form, that their child was absent due to flu-like symptoms. This form will also be posted on the HCPS web site under the “H1N1 Flu Information” tab. The division’s attendance policy was not changed. Parents will still have to provide documentation by a physician for all absences except H1N1 Flu and seasonal flu.

The school division will follow the recommendations provided by the Virginia Department of Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the Virginia Department of Education to guide decisions and steps to help minimize the overall impact on any school or the community.

If your child is sick and has a fever, he/she needs to stay home for at least 24 hours after the fever subsides and without using a fever-reducing medication. To keep everyone informed information is available on the Henry County Public School System’s web page at www.henry.k12.va.us.

Sincerely,

Anthony Jackson, Division Superintendent
Sherry M. Vestal, RN, School Nurse Coordinator

Attachments