



BAYONNE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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SUPERINTENDENT

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

As you are aware, there are many questions and concerns regarding Swine Influenza (flu). The Bayonne School District is working closely with the City of Bayonne Health Department, the Hudson County Superintendent of Schools, the New Jersey Department of Education, the New Jersey Department of Health and is following guidelines established by the National Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) in recognizing and reporting possible cases of the flu and in taking steps to prevent its spread in the schools.

Please be advised that based on the CDC's recommendations, schools will only close as a last resort. The most effective means to stop the spread of any illness is to remain home when ill.

As you may know, flu can be easily spread from person to person. Therefore, we are taking steps to reduce the spread of flu in the Bayonne School District. We want to keep the schools open to students and functioning in a normal manner during this flu season. **But, we need your help to do this.**

We will continue to closely monitor flu conditions and make decisions about the best steps to take concerning schools. We will keep you updated with new information as it becomes available.

For now, we are doing everything we can to keep our schools functioning as usual. Here are a few things you can do to help:

- **Teach your children to wash their hands** often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub. You can set a good example by doing this yourself.
- **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 unavailable.
- **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, headache, and feeling very tired. Some people may also vomit or have diarrhea.
- **Keep sick children at home** for at least 24 hours after they no longer have fever or do not have signs of fever, without using fever-reducing drugs. Keeping children with a fever at home will reduce the number of people who may get infected.
- **Do not send children to school if they are sick.** Any children who are determined to be sick while at school will be sent home.

Also, please take the time to visit the Bayonne School District's website at <http://www.bboed.org> and the Center for Disease Control & Prevention website at <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu>.

Sincerely,

Patricia L. McGeehan, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

George J. Mellendick, M.D.
Chief Medical Inspector

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