



ISLIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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SUSAN A. SCHNEBEL
SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

April 30, 2009

Dear Islip Community:

While the Islip Community has NOT been affected by the recent swine flu virus, the School District has been closely monitoring the media reports and shares your concern regarding this health issue. We have been receiving guidance from state and local health agencies with regard to best practices in cleaning and other preventive measures against all strains of influenza.

Symptoms of swine flu include fever (over 100°F), cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose. Additional symptoms may be experienced with swine flu, including muscle pain, fatigue and sometimes vomiting or diarrhea. Dr. Humayun J. Chaudhry, our Suffolk County Department of Health Services Commissioner, advises residents experiencing fever or respiratory illness to stay home from work or school for a few days and to contact their physician. Please see the reverse side for Dr. Chaudhry's April 27, 2009 letter.

It is important to note that ordinary seasonal flu, which has symptoms similar to swine flu, is still active in New York State. It is also important to teach your children to take precautionary measures to reduce their risk of getting the flu and protect others from infection with some basic health tips:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze or cough into the inside of your elbow.
- Wash your hands often. Washing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (the same time as singing the Happy Birthday song twice) is ideal. Alcohol-based cleaners are also effective.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.

Health officials believe that if we all practice good hygiene, we can limit the spread of many illnesses in our schools.

You can obtain more information about swine flu and precautionary measures at the following websites:

<http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>

http://www.nyhealth.gov/diseases/communicable/influenza/seasonal/swine_flu/swine_flu_questions_and_answers.htm

We have asked our faculty to review health habits with our students. Additionally, our custodial staff will be vigilant in maintaining a thorough cleaning schedule of all District buildings.

Sincerely,

Susan A. Schnebel
Superintendent of Schools

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COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



STEVE LEVY
SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

HUMAYUN J. CHAUDHRY, D.O., M.S.
Commissioner

April 27, 2009

Re: Swine Flu in the United States

Dear Suffolk County School Official:

As you are aware, the United States Department of Health and Human Services yesterday declared a national Public Health Emergency in light of the identification and confirmation of 20 cases of swine flu in California, Texas, Kansas, Ohio and New York. The declaration is a precautionary tool to ensure that local and state health departments have the resources they need to respond quickly and effectively should the need arise. As President Obama said this morning, the threat of spreading swine flu infections is a cause for concern but "not a cause for alarm."

There are no cases of swine flu identified or confirmed in Suffolk County. Eight individuals from Suffolk County were tested for swine flu as a precaution on Saturday and the New York State Department of Health informed us yesterday that all those test results were negative for swine flu.

Should the situation change, you will be sent additional notification and information. The Suffolk County Department of Health Services (SCDHS), working with County Executive Steve Levy and his office, has been in touch with hospitals, emergency departments, emergency medical service workers, and physicians around the County and has been actively involved in enhanced surveillance of what is happening. We have been in close communication with the New York State Department of Health and federal authorities and are monitoring the situation very closely.

A high index of suspicion is of great value in protecting Suffolk County residents, especially our students. Students should consult their physician. Their doctor, in consultation with Suffolk County Department of Health Services, may decide to do testing for flu, and may request special testing for swine flu (but only if that is indicated). Every case of a flu-like illness does not require testing for swine flu. The New York State Department of Health has provided specific guidance to health care providers throughout the state regarding who should be tested for swine flu and what specimens to collect and we are reaching out to physicians to communicate and reinforce that information, as well.



Public Health
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