



**High achievement by all students,
where learning is our most important work**

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Dear Farmington Public Schools Families:

The H1N1 flu has received a lot of attention in the media and, therefore, I felt that it was important to let you know that the District is keeping track of the numbers of student absences by school. We want to thank you for keeping your children home when they have flu symptoms and for reporting your child's illness when they do stay home. We realize it is flu season and in accord with health officials, we will be reporting numbers of students with flu symptoms to the Oakland County Health Department. **However, we will not be sending home a letter each time we receive notice of a confirmed case.**

At this point, southeastern Michigan has not had any widespread outbreaks of H1N1. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) is not recommending school closure in the event of a single case or even mild outbreaks of the H1N1 flu. School closures will only be considered if a large number of students or staff members are absent.

The District will continue to monitor daily absences. District administration will inform parents in the event of a school closure by our automated phone fan-out system and posting on the District's web site. If a school is to be closed, the Health Department suggests students not gather at another location such as malls or movie theaters, but rather stay home to avoid continued spread of flu outside of school.

Please help us minimize the number of students who become ill this school year by:

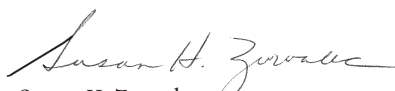
- **Reminding your children to wash their hands** often with soap and water.
- **Reminding your children to not share personal items** like drinks, food or unwashed utensils.
- **Reminding your children to cover up their coughs or sneezes** by using the elbow, arm or sleeve, instead of their hands.

In addition to these student behaviors, schools remind staff, parents and families to:

- **Know the signs and symptoms of the flu.** Symptoms include fever (100 degrees or greater), cough, sore throat, runny/stuffy nose, body aches, headache and fatigue. Some people also experience vomiting or diarrhea.
- **Keep sick children at home for at least 24 hours** after they no longer have a fever or do not have signs of a fever, without using fever-reducing medication (Motrin, Tylenol, etc). Keeping children with a fever at home will help to reduce the number of people who may get infected with the flu.
- **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.

We will continue to make decisions based on the recommendations of county and state public health organizations, as well as the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and will keep you updated with new information as it becomes available. For more information about flu prevention, please visit the home page of the District's web site at **www.farmington.k12.mi.us**.

Sincerely,


Susan H. Zurvalec
Superintendent

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