

# FOX RIVER GROVE SCHOOL DISTRICT 3



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**Dr. Tim Mahaffy,  
Superintendent**

*“Educational Excellence is the Pathway to a Successful Future”*

Date: May 6, 2009

To: Parents and Staff of School District 3

Re: Swine Flu - Update

This afternoon, the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) issued updated guidance on school closures in relation to the outbreak of H1N1 Influenza (Swine Flu). The decision to close schools to deter the spread of H1N1 and, by extension, the decision to reopen schools that had been closed due to the outbreak is a local decision that must be made in consultation with state and local health authorities. District 3 will continue to contact the McHenry County Health Department for updated guidance.

The CDC no longer recommends school closures based solely upon a confirmed or suspected case of H1N1 Influenza. To this end, we will continue to be in contact with local, state and federal agencies for guidance regarding the H1N1 virus. Please refer to the District 3 website for previous guidance on personal hygiene that helps prevent the spreading of any influenza strand.

Clearly, basic sanitary measures are also an important part of limiting the spread of the disease. The simplest recommendations that we can share with any influenza is:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it. Cover your nose and mouth with your sleeve if you do not have a tissue.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners also are effective.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.

#### **Where can I find additional information?**

Centers for Disease Control and prevention (CDC):

[www.cdc.gov/swineflu/](http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/)

Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH):

[www.idph.state.il.us/flue/swine\\_flu.htm](http://www.idph.state.il.us/flue/swine_flu.htm)

McHenry County Department of Health (MCDH):

[www.mcdh.info](http://www.mcdh.info)

Illinois State Board of Education:

[http://www.isbe.net/htmls/swine\\_flu.htm](http://www.isbe.net/htmls/swine_flu.htm) .

We hope that this will be the last update we need to give for H1N1 virus. However, if any further concerns arise or issues come our way that we think parents need to be informed about, we will pass this information along to you.

Sincerely,

Dr. Tim J. Mahaffy