

School Union 44, Litchfield, Sabattus and Wales Schools

Robert V. Connors, Interim Superintendent

375.4273

April 30, 2009

Dear parents and guardians,

As I am sure you are aware, the World Health Organization and the Center for Disease Control are monitoring the H1N1 ("swine flu") outbreak here in the United States and around the world. As of yesterday morning there were three confirmed cases of H1N1 ("swine flu") in Maine, two adults in Kennebec County and one adult in York County. Yesterday afternoon Dr. Mills, director of the Maine CDC, Governor Baldacci and Education Commissioner Susan Gendron announced the closure of Kennebunk Elementary School and the Crayon Academy day care center in Arundel due to suspected H1N1 cases in two children.

As the state and federal government is responding to this outbreak, School Union 44 has activated the established plan for responding at the district and school level. Students will be reminded of the basic hygiene for stopping colds and flu listed below. Health officials are asking parents to keep sick children home. Any children who show flu symptoms with fever will be sent home. If there is a confirmed case of H1N1 in our schools we will be informed by Dr. Mills and schools will be closed for at least seven days. Teachers are working to have school work for students to work on at home in the event of a school closure. Begin planning now for childcare in your home. At this time, health officials tell us that students who are not ill can safely come to school and the schools will remain open. We will keep you updated with any important information.

School staff, along with public health officials want you to protect yourself and your family against H1N1 ("swine flu"). Here are the recommendations from the CDC:

- Keep children who are sick with a fever at home. Students should remain out of school for 24 to 48 hours after the fever is gone.
- Wash hands several times a day with soap and water for 20 seconds. Be sure to set a good example by doing this yourself.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with tissues or the inside of your elbow.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Teach your children to stay at least three feet away from people who are sick.
- Stay away from shopping malls, movie theatres, or other places where there are large groups of people.

If you have questions, please contact your School Nurse or healthcare provider. Enclosed you will find some information from the CDC which Commissioner Gendron referenced on television yesterday. More information is available at the following websites:

www.maine.gov/education/swineflu.html and <http://www.pandemicflu.gov>

Sincerely,

/s/ Robert V. Connors

Robert V. Connors

Interim Superintendent School Union 44