



Camdenton R-III School District

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Superintendent
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September 10, 2009

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Since the onset of this school year, Camdenton R-III School District has been using all resources available to further prevent a flu outbreak by building on the efforts and lessons learned from this spring's warnings of the H1N1 flu. I would like to share with you how our district has been actively preparing for the possibility of a more severe fall-outbreak of the flu.

To illustrate our collective commitment to the district's H1N1 Preparedness Plan, I'd like to share with you the numerous prevention measures we currently perform to combat the spread of the H1N1 virus in our schools. Our interventions include:

1. Administrators and health services nurses are continually researching the latest National CDC H1N1 information.

We invite you to join us by using the support sources listed below:

- a) CDC HOTLINE 1.800.CDC.INFO (24/7)
 - b) www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/
2. Our administrators participate in a county-wide Emergency Management Planning Team and I, as the Health Services Coordinator communicate daily with our staff physician and the communicable disease specialist at the Camden County Health Department.
 3. Staff and students are being warned to **stay home** if they are sick. We know that **social isolation** will dramatically decrease the spread of viruses.
 4. We are enforcing strict disease prevention campaigns in all of our classrooms and school buildings, ie., **frequent hand-washing** with soap and water, **hand sanitizing** stations in cafeterias, monitoring children to ensure that they do not share glasses or eating utensils, covering of the nose and mouth with a tissue/sleeve for a cough or sneeze, **social isolation** of the sick person, and again, encouraging anyone who is sick to **stay home**. Please practice these same measures at home and do not be afraid to **mask faces** for protection. For added safety, we are encouraging this among our staff.
 5. We have ramped up our housekeeping department with additional staff to ensure that commonly touched surfaces such as doorknobs, handrails, and water fountain knobs are disinfected several times a day. Our transportation department is seeing that the seatbacks in busses are disinfected regularly, as well. Our staff will be **wearing masks** more frequently for protection of self and others.
 6. Spray disinfectants will be used frequently by staff in each classroom.
 7. Our school clinic nurses are on high alert for students or staff members reporting with a fever, sore throat, cough, body aches, fatigue or nausea and vomiting. These people will be fitted with a **mask** and **socially isolated** while expediting measures to send them home or to a medical clinic for diagnosis and treatment.
 8. All suspicious cases of flu-like symptoms are reported to me for documentation. I then report each concerning case to our Superintendent and to the Camden County Health Department.

Over the course of the upcoming weeks and months, we will continue our aggressive movements in the prevention of a more severe outbreak of the H1N1 virus. We ask our families to join in becoming actively engaged in this prevention mode by using the infection control measures (mentioned above) in your home. This will ensure that we are all doing everything possible to keep our communities safe and healthy.

Most importantly, please allow your sick student to **stay home** until they have been free of a fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever-reducing medications.

Best Wishes for a Healthy Fall season,

Sue Vize-Blankenship, R.N.
Health Services Coordinator
Camdenton R-III School District

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