



CARROLL COUNTY SCHOOLS

"Our Core Business is Teaching and Learning"

www.carrollcountyschools.com

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Dear Parents:

As we enter the fall season, I am certain the reports of H1N1 (Swine Flu) continue to create some questions and concerns for parents and community members in our district. Georgia's Division of Public Health reports that our state continues to have cases of H1N1 and that the virus may become more widespread in our state during the fall and winter. Because your child's health and safety are our top concerns, I want to share some basic information with you about swine flu, precautions our schools are taking to reduce the potential spread of both H1N1 and seasonal flu, and preventive steps you can take as well.

Swine flu is a respiratory disease of pigs that does not normally infect humans; however, human infections with swine flu began to occur in early 2009. The symptoms of swine flu in people are often similar to regular seasonal flu and include fever, lethargy, lack of appetite and coughing. Some people with swine flu also have reported runny nose, sore throat, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.

Our schools are taking extra precautions to ensure that classrooms, offices, restrooms, cafeterias, and other common areas are regularly cleaned and disinfected. Carroll County Schools and the Carroll County Health Department work closely to share important information such as potential and confirmed cases of swine flu, as well as reporting flu-like symptoms as necessary.

Among our most important relationships is the one we have with you. Many of you sent hand sanitizer, surface disinfectant, tissue, and similar products to assist your child's classroom teacher with preventing the spread of germs. My sincerest thanks for your kindness in providing these items. We need your continued help, however, in sharing information that can prevent the spread of illness in our schools – not just swine and seasonal flu, but any kind of virus. Please help reinforce the information provided at school by encouraging your child to follow these simple steps:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after use.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.
- Avoid close contact with sick people.
- Parents - If your child gets sick, please keep them home from school and limit contact with others. If your child is ill and has recently traveled to an area affected by swine flu, or has been in contact with someone who has been infected with swine flu, contact your child's healthcare provider immediately.

If you would like more information about swine flu, visit the Centers for Disease Control website at www.cdc.gov, or select additional resources from www.carrollcountyschools.com.

Sincerely,

John F. Zauner
Superintendent