

May 5, 2009

Dear Parents,

By now you are probably aware that state health officials are reporting probable and confirmed cases of H1N1 influenza (Swine Flu) here in Oregon. While this brings the virus closer to home, we still have no reports of H1N1 influenza infecting any of our students or staff. Roseburg Public Schools continues to work closely with the Douglas County Health Department to monitor the evolving situation. Cases that have occurred in other locations have typically been mild to moderate.

It's very important, however, that we all do what we can to keep flu from spreading. Here are some ways to stop the spread of germs and sickness and take care of your family:

- Keep children who are sick at home. Don't send them to school.
- If someone in your home is sick with flu-like symptoms including a fever, contact your health-care provider.
- People who are sick should stay home from work or school and stay away from other people until they are better.
- Ensure that you and your children wash their hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds.
- Ensure that you and your children cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or by coughing into the inside of the elbow.
- Teach your children to stay at least three feet away from people who are sick.

If children become sick with respiratory symptoms and a fever at school, we will notify parents to pick them up and take them home or to a health-care provider. If a case of H1N1 influenza is deemed probable or confirmed in a Roseburg public school, the Oregon Public Health Division and Douglas County Health Department will direct our response, which may include closure of the infected student's school for up to 14 days. Parents may want to have child-care arrangements in place in the event that your child's school is temporarily closed.

Should a school in Roseburg Public Schools be closed due to a confirmed case of H1N1 influenza, follow-up communications from your student's school or the school district will occur through regular local media sources or via the district's all-call system. For more information about the status of the H1N1 influenza epidemic call the school district at 440-4014, the Oregon Department of Health toll-free hotline, 800-978-3040, or visit the CDC Web site www.cdc.gov/flu/.

Local health officials are working closely with state and federal health authorities. We will keep you updated with important information. Our goal is to keep our schools operating and our students safe, healthy, and learning.

Sincerely,



Larry C. Parsons
Superintendent
Roseburg Public Schools