



MEDFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

459 Main Street - 3rd Floor
Medfield, Massachusetts 02052

ROBERT C. MAGUIRE
Superintendent of Schools
(508) 359-2302

August 24, 2009

Dear Parents,

I am writing to you at the beginning of the school year to update you on important information regarding our preparations for managing this year's anticipated flu illness. We have recently been provided with the most guidance from federal and state health agencies which is incorporated into the listed steps you will find below. We will continue to provide you with any additional information as it becomes available.

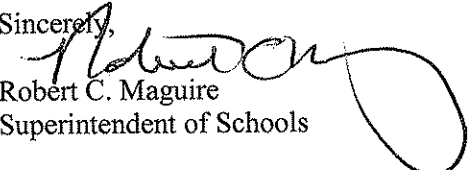
At this point we anticipate the possibility of additional incidences of the H1N1 and seasonal flu this fall. We are actively planning, in conjunction with state and local health officials, to take steps to control and manage the possible spread of the flu. We need your help to do this!

We will continue to do everything we can to keep our schools functioning as usual. Here are a few things you can do to help.

- **Teach your children to wash their hands** often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub. You can set a good example by doing this yourself.
- **Teach your children not to share personal items** like drinks, food or unwashed utensils, and to cover their coughs and sneezes with tissues. Cover up their coughs or sneezes using the elbow, arm or sleeve instead of the hand when a tissue is unavailable.
- **Know the signs and symptoms of the flu.** Symptoms of the flu include fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit or more), cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and feeling very tired. Some people may also vomit or have diarrhea.
- **Keep sick children at home** for at least 24 hours *after* they no longer have a fever or do not have signs of fever, without using fever-reducing drugs. Keeping children with a fever at home will reduce the number of people who may get infected.
- **Do not send children to school if they are sick.** Any child we determine to be sick while at school *will be sent home*.

We will be taking steps in our schools to reinforce the above strategies with students and staff. For more information, visit www.flu.gov, or call 1-800-CDC-INFO for the most current information about the flu. For more information about flu in our community and what our schools are doing, visit our website at www.medfield.net. We will notify you of any additional changes to our school's strategy to prevent the spread of flu. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,


Robert C. Maguire
Superintendent of Schools