

June 11, 2009

Dear Parents,

As you know, the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) has confirmed five cases of the H1N1 Virus (Swine Flu) at Saylesville Elementary School. **Please know that we are working closely with RIDOH officials to ensure the safety and health of our students and all staff members.**

At this time, RIDOH does not recommend that any of our schools be closed. However, it is imperative that we have your cooperation in this matter by keeping your child home from school if they have any of the following symptoms: fever, cough, headache, sore throat, runny nose, stuffy nose, muscle pain, fatigue, vomiting, diarrhea) **for seven days after onset of symptoms or for at least 24 hours after symptoms have ended, whichever is longer.** This is one important step in helping to stop the spread of this virus. Below please find general tips for decreasing the spread of germs provided by RIDOH:

- Wash your hands often with soap and warm water, especially after you cough or sneeze. If water is not available, use alcohol-based hand gels. Hand sanitizer is available in every classroom.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. (If a tissue is not available, cough or sneeze into your arm.)
- Teach your children to keep their hands away from their face and avoid touching their mouth, nose or eyes.
- Carefully dispose of tissues in a wastebasket, and then wash your hands. Do not share drinking cups or food.

Again, we request your cooperation in this matter; if your child is not feeling well and/or has any of the above symptoms, please keep them home. Also, please call the school and provide us with the specific symptoms and reason for your child's absence.

If you have any medical questions please call your physician or contact the RIDOH at 1-800-942-7434 or visit their website at <http://www.health.ri.gov>. As always, we will continue to analyze our absences on a daily basis and take all necessary precautions as dictated by the Rhode Island Department of Health.