

April 30, 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian:

This letter is to advise you on the outbreak of Swine Influenza A in Mexico, and that is now in the US and worldwide. I know that some of you have been concerned about the implications of the virus for your student. At this point there are no confirmed cases of Swine Influenza A in Washington or in Yakima County; however, there are unconfirmed cases in King, Snohomish, and Spokane counties, and it is clear this has the potential of developing into a serious situation. Below are some measures that can aid in preventing spread of infection to your child and family.

Some Simple Preventative Measures:

*Keep your child at home if he/she has symptoms of illness. See a health care provider for diagnosis if symptoms are suggestive of influenza, which include: Fever, cough, sore throat, and/or body aches. Intestinal symptoms are rarely associated with this respiratory influenza.

*Wash hands often and thoroughly with soap and water.

*Cough or sneeze into your arm or clothing and wash hands with soap and water afterwards.

*Use good hygiene if you are in contact with sick people.

*Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth if you are in contact with sick people.

You can find accurate, current information on the virus at the OSPI website Preparing Schools for Swine Flu (<http://www.k12.wa.us/HealthServices/swineflu.aspx>).

Again, at this point, we have unconfirmed cases of Swine Influenza A that have been identified in Washington State. We will be taking every preventative measure that we can to minimize the impact on school operations. We will be sending out additional information as needed and advised by the County Health Board.

Thank you,

Deborah Fielding, RN/BSN
District Nurse
Toppenish School District