

Phillipsburg USD 325 Pandemic Flu Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan H1N1

The purpose of the Pandemic Flu Emergency Preparedness and Response Plan is to assist in managing the impact of an influenza pandemic on schools based on two main strategies:

- 1) Reducing the spread of the virus within school facilities; and
- 2) Sustaining educational functions.

The Phillipsburg USD 325 school district administration have been reviewing current Pandemic Flu Plans and have planned for the imminent risk of the **H1N1 virus** becoming widespread this fall and want to communicate the following recommendations for our schools:

Students and School Staff:

1. **School closure will NOT occur**, unless there is a magnitude of faculty or student absenteeism that interferes with the school's ability to function.
2. **Stay home when you are sick.** Students, faculty and all staff with influenza-like illness (fever with cough or sore throat), should stay home and not attend school or go into the community except to seek medical care. The CDC is recommending that those with flu-like illness **stay home until at least 24 hours after their fever is gone, without using fever-reducing medications**, such as Acetaminophen (Tylenol) or Ibuprofen (Motrin). Check with your school nurse or healthcare provider for updated information on specific guidance on when to return to school and watch for updates on the Phillipsburg District website and in school newsletters!
3. **Avoid close contact with people who are sick.** Students, faculty and staff who appear to have, or develop during the school day, influenza-like symptoms should be isolated promptly in a room separated from other students and staff, and sent home.
4. **Cover your mouth and nose and wash your hands.** Follow sanitary measures to reduce the spread of influenza, including covering their nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, coughing into their sleeve or elbow, frequently washing their hands with soap and water, or using hand sanitizer if hand washing with soap is not possible.
5. **Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.** Pathogens are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated and then touches his or her eyes, nose or mouth.
6. **Open communication** with student and parents to continue with assignments and coursework when students are absent from school.

Parents:

1. **Monitor for illness.** Parents and guardians should monitor their school-aged children every morning for symptoms of influenza-like illness and should NOT send them to school or to daycare if symptoms are present.

2. **Report ALL absences from school.** Call the school and report specific symptoms, disease or reason student is not in school to assist with symptom/disease surveillance. Also, make sure the school has correct contact and emergency numbers to allow for prompt pick-up if influenza-like symptoms occur.
3. **Aspirin or aspirin-containing products should NOT** be administered to any confirmed or suspected ill case of novel H1N1 influenza virus infection age 18 years and younger, due to the risk of Reye's syndrome. For more information visit the CDC website at: http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/general_info.htm
5. **Stay home.** If your child is ill with influenza-like symptoms they should not attend alternative child care or congregate in other neighborhood and community settings.
6. **Stay informed!** Check your child's book bag daily to monitor for written updates from the school. Visit the Phillipsburg USD #325 website (www.usd325.com) to view current updates on H1N1.

Planning and Response to the possibility of school closure includes the following:

- **Business Operations**

In the event schools are closed, the USD #325 Board of Education Office will stay open, if possible. **School missed will be made up to the 1116 hours required immediately after the final day of the published school calendar.**

Everyone would continue to get paid as usual. Stopping payment would create undo hardship on classified employees. Hourly employee's who are not twelve month employees, would be asked to sign an agreement stating they would come back and work the extended school year without pay. Most of our employees work year to year and would agree to this. We may have a few who would take advantage of this, but the consequence would be dismissal.

The School Nurse will handle protection of all working staff and visitors. She will provide all working employees with personal protective equipment as directed by the Phillips County Health Agency and will assist the Superintendent with communication/collaboration from local and state agencies on reopening schools and recommendations to follow.

- **Building Operations**

In case of a pandemic and school closure, only "essential personnel" will be expected to work in his/her respective buildings.

Essential personnel shall be defined as the building principal and the head custodian for each building.

All reporting personnel would be expected to utilize personal protective equipment as deemed necessary by county authorities.

All buildings should be checked for security daily by the principal and/or head custodian.

If a building was designated and used as a Point of Dispensing site (POD) for the Phillips County Health Agency, custodians would provide assistance as needed to the designated site, as would the building principal. In these cases, it would be expected that Phillips County authorities would be directing school personnel to appropriate duties. The School Nurse will act as liaison between the school and county.

- **Communications**

Timely and accurate information regarding school closures and reopening will be provided to all school district staff, students and parents through district newsletters, website, letters to parents, hotlines and telephone trees to assist with the communication process. Local television and radio stations will also play an important role.

Pandemic Flu

What is a pandemic disease?

It is an outbreak of an infectious disease that affects people over an extensive geographical area. The pandemic flu that has been most recently in the news has also been called H1N1 flu. As we know, initial cases of novel influenza A (H1N1) in the United States included school aged students who were associated with travel to Mexico. Since that time H1N1 has gained momentum and in just over 100 days has spread from two countries in one continent to 160 countries in every continent of the world. Already the pandemic strain has claimed about 800 lives worldwide, three times the number lost to the “bird flu” virus since 2003. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that in the next two years 20 to 40 percent of the US population will be stricken, with many of the cases compressed into “waves” of infection lasting eight to twelve weeks. The number of pandemic-related deaths will range from 90,000 to “several hundred thousand”, according to the CDC.

What can you and your family do to find out more?

- Log onto www.usd325.com and go to the link regarding Pandemic Flu. We will update you with information if it should be necessary to put our school district “Pandemic Flu Plan” into effect.
- Log onto http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/general_info.htm for the most recent advice regarding the virus and how to prepare for a possible pandemic.