



Spartanburg County School District Two

Administrative Offices

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September 2, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (DHEC) is working with our schools to set up school-based clinics to administer the Novel H1N1 flu vaccine to students at no cost when it becomes available, possibly in early November. Prior to the clinic dates, further information and permission slips will be sent home with students; the permission forms must be completed and returned with your signature if you want your child to receive the vaccine at school during the school day. Some after-hours clinics should also be available for parents who wish to accompany their children.

The Novel H1N1 flu (swine flu) causes illness that is similar to regular seasonal flu. As with seasonal flu, most people who get Novel H1N1 will recover after a few days. We are seeing students with flu-like symptoms in our schools. Some may have the Novel H1N1 flu. The Novel H1N1 flu is common in communities across our state and nation.

Children less than five years old, pregnant women, and individuals with asthma, diabetes, immune system disorders, or neuromuscular disease are at higher risk of becoming very ill if they get the flu. Check with your health care provider right away if someone in your household is in a high risk group and has flu symptoms. Early treatment with antiviral medications may help lessen symptoms.

Listed below are some of the things that we are doing at school to prevent the spread of flu:

- Teaching students and staff to cover their mouths and noses when coughing or sneezing.
- Reminding students and staff to wash their hands frequently.
- Screening ill students for symptoms of the flu.
- Sending students and staff home if they have a fever and flu-like symptoms.
- Cleaning surfaces that are touched frequently.

Slowing the spread of flu is a team effort. Until the threat of flu has passed, we need your help as follows:

- Check your child daily for symptoms of the flu. Keep your child at home if he or she has a fever of 100°F or higher with a cough or sore throat. Other flu symptoms are *fever* with a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and feeling very tired. Some people may also vomit or have diarrhea. Children with the flu will need to stay home until the fever is gone for 24 hours without taking medicines to reduce the fever, usually at least three to five days.
- Practice frequent hand washing and covering your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze at home. These healthy habits will help prevent the spread of flu.
- You may want to talk with your health care provider about getting your family vaccinated against the flu.

We appreciate your cooperation and support as we do our best to keep our students and staff healthy and schools operating normally.

Sincerely,

Scott Mercer
Superintendent