



*Sweet Home Central School District
of Amherst and Tonawanda*

Office of the Superintendent
1901 Sweet Home Road • Amherst, New York 14228
(716) 250-1402

Geoffrey M. Hicks
Superintendent of Schools

May 13, 2009

Dear Parents & Guardians,

The District was notified today by the Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) that a student who attends Willow Ridge Elementary School has a confirmed case of Influenza A H1N1, otherwise known as swine flu. The purpose of this letter is to provide our community with additional information.

The District has consulted with Dr. Anthony Billittier, Erie County Health Commissioner, and the student will be out of school for the recommended seven-day infectious period. The District will follow Dr. Billittier's advice as well as the protocol established by the Center for Disease Control (CDC). There is no reason to close school. It is possible that other cases of swine flu for students will be confirmed. Please be assured that we will monitor the situation closely and collaborate as needed with the ECDOH.

It is very important that you do not send your child to school if he/she is experiencing any flu-like symptoms, which include a fever of greater than 100°, runny nose, nasal congestion, and/or a sore throat. Please consider contacting your child's health care provider if the symptoms are of concern. It is also important that you notify the school health office if you have consulted with your child's physician. Students who are ill should remain home and away from others until they have been symptom-free for a minimum of 24 hours.

Please be assured that all school personnel are familiar with hygiene protocols and are taking all necessary precautions to protect the health and safety of our students, faculty, staff and the community. Our custodial staff will maintain their regimen of cleaning and disinfecting heavily used surfaces. We advise that all community members follow the guidelines below to help prevent the spread of disease:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or the inside of your elbow when coughing or sneezing.
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Stay home when sick and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth as germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated.

For more information about swine flu H1N1, please visit www.erie.gov/health/swine_flu.asp or call the New York State Department of Health Swine Flu Hot Line at 1-800-808-1987. I will continue to keep our community updated via postings on the District Website at www.sweethomeschools.com.

Thank you for your patience, cooperation and understanding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Geoffrey M. Hicks".

Geoffrey Hicks
Superintendent of Schools