

April 30, 2009

Dear Staff:

As you are aware, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified cases of swine Influenza A virus infection in people in several states. While the CDC is working with local and state health agencies to investigate these cases, you should be vigilant in looking for signs and symptoms of this virus in your school or department.

Signs and symptoms of swine flu are similar to those of seasonal flu and include:

- Fever
- Headache
- Cough
- Diarrhea and/or vomiting
- Lethargy
- Body aches
- Sore throat

If a staff member experiences any of the above symptoms, they should stay home. The current seasonal vaccine is not a good match to the swine flu strain and will not provide protection against this illness.

If a student comes to school with these symptoms, they are to be sent home and stay at home until 24 hours after all symptoms have resolved, before returning to school. In cases of mild illness, the student is to be self-isolated at home. Instructions should be given to contact the child's medical provider for further advice.

If a parent/guardian cannot pick the student up right away, make every attempt to keep that student separate from other students seeking help in the health room or office.

There is no need to isolate a student or person who has recently traveled to an area experiencing an outbreak of swine flu, unless that person is symptomatic.

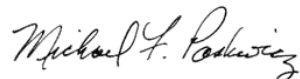
As superintendent, I am responsible for assessing the needs of our district and schools and am working in conjunction with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment and the Tri-County Health Department to determine any district or school action to be taken with regard to this health situation.

Remember, swine flu is passed from person to person, and not from pigs or from eating pork or pork products. Continue to reinforce the use of these effective prevention strategies:

- Routine hand-washing
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or by coughing or sneezing into your elbow
- Avoid others with respiratory illness
- Stay at home if you have mild flu-like illness – regardless of travel history.

CDC advises that alcohol-based hand sanitizer is an effective means to help prevent the spread of swine flu. Therefore schools are strongly encouraged to have alcohol-based hand sanitizer available for students and staff in various areas throughout the building. Stay informed of the rapidly changing situation regarding swine flu by logging onto <http://cdc.gov/swineflu> and http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/key_facts.htm. You can also call the Colorado Help Line at 1-877-462-2911.

Sincerely,



Michael F. Paskewicz
Superintendent