



Corvallis School District 509J

Honoring Diversity

October 15, 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The 2009 flu season (including the H1N1 flu virus) has arrived in Benton County as predicted. Earlier this week, Benton County Health Department confirmed cases of H1N1 within the county. We are also hearing reports that private physicians utilizing “rapid testing” techniques have identified cases of flu throughout the community, including students attending Corvallis schools at all academic levels.

Due to the infectious nature of all flu viruses (including H1N1), local public health officials have advised the district that it is likely that everyone has been or will be exposed. Exposure does not necessarily mean that an individual will become sick. However, the district has decided to inform our entire community that cases of flu have been reported throughout the county, rather than inform parents of individual cases in specific classes or schools.

We are asking you to watch your child carefully for signs of the flu: a fever of greater than 100^o, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills, fatigue, diarrhea and/or vomiting. If your student is showing these symptoms – especially the fever – they should not attend school. Students who start to show these signs while at school will be sent home.

Please be prepared to keep students home at least 24 hours after a fever has stopped without the help of fever reducing medication (e.g., Tylenol). If you have not made “backup” child care arrangements, we urge that you do so now.

In concert with local public health officials, we are strongly recommending that families of medically fragile individuals contact their physicians to discuss a personalized plan of action based on their individual needs and situation.

Please take a moment to review the additional questions and answers on the reverse of this letter and available on the district’s website: www.csd509j.net under the “Spotlight On” section. Should you have more questions regarding the current pandemic, please visit: www.flu.gov; www.flu.oregon.gov, or call Oregon’s influenza hotline at: 1-800-978-3040.

Remember, the most effective preventative measures are frequent hand-washing, covering coughs, staying home when ill, and vaccinations. Thank you for your continued support and cooperation of our flu prevention strategies.

Dawn Tarzian, Superintendent