



May 4, 2009

To: Superintendent Brian Sarvis

From: Barbara Keyani, Coordinator of Administrative Services and Communications

Re: H1N1 (swine flu) Virus

Following is a summary of actions taken in response to the fast-moving flow of information regarding the H1N1 (swine flu virus):

**Week of April 27, 2009**

- Media meeting on April 27; news releases were picked up by tv, radio, and web-based media from Santa Maria to Santa Barbara
- Frequent, daily communication with Santa Barbara Public Health Department (prior to the districts' release of any information on H1N1, health department representatives reviewed all information for accuracy)
- Distribution to schools and families of a health department fact sheet on the virus (English and Spanish)
- eNEWS updates to staff
- Development of a section on the districts' homepage with public health department updates (English and Spanish)
- Two TeleParent updates to all families re the virus and how families should plan and prepare for a possible school closure
- Special Superintendent's Cabinet was convened re the virus and protocols for sanitizing will be developed (FYI: the virus can live on surfaces for about two hours)
- H1N1 was discussed in a management meeting and protocol for school closures were reviewed
- School nurses prepared a message to staff on district protocols re the virus that was sent out in eNEWS on Friday, May 1
- H1N1 was discussed at a District Office meeting
- Staff responded to numerous phone calls from the public re the virus

**Monday, May 4, 2009**

- District representation at a meeting with the medical director and the deputy director for the Santa Barbara County Public Health Department
- Continued web posting of public health department updates

There was new information and several key reminders that came out of the May 4 meeting with public health officials:

- In the event of a school dismissal of students, the district can only be reimbursed from the state if the superintendent closes a school on the recommendation of the health department

Adams Elementary School	McKinley Elementary School	Roosevelt Elementary School	Goleta Valley Junior High School	Dos Pueblos High School
Cesar Chavez Charter School	Monroe Elementary School	Santa Barbara Charter School	La Colina Junior High School	La Cuesta Continuation High School
Cleveland Elementary School	Open Alternative School	Santa Barbara Community Academy	La Cumbre Junior High School	San Marcos High School
Franklin Elementary School	Peabody Charter School	Washington Elementary School	Santa Barbara Junior High School	Santa Barbara High School
Harding Elementary School				Home School Santa Barbara

- Following their assessment, if the health department calls for a school dismissal, it is a dismissal of a **student(s)**, not the closure of a facility; staff stay on duty unless the health department determines that a specific staff member(s) is at risk
- The health department will assess and recommend if a student(s), classroom(s), or all students at the site are to be dismissed (Note: in SLO, affected schools are not being dismissed).
- In the event of a school dismissal, or detection of the virus at a school, news releases are to be put out only by public health; school staff are to be prepared for a surge in incoming calls

The information and protocols are changing quickly as new information is received. Currently, county public health is testing 15-30 specimens daily. Testing is becoming more restrictive and the focus is on high-risk categories.

There three types of Type A flu (including H1N1) and one type of Type B in the community now. Health officials anticipate an H1N1 vaccine by fall.

On a related note, the districts' Healthmaster system has been programmed to detect specific flu symptoms seen in health offices at the school sites. The system then looks back at a period of time and determines, based on a variant percentage, whether an outbreak trend is detected. If detected, an e-mail can be sent to an administrator and reports out of the system can be generated by school and grade level.