

Northfield

Public Schools I.S.D. 659 MINNESOTA

District Office
1400 Division Street South
Northfield, MN 55057
507-663-0611 (fax)

April 29, 2009

Dear Parents,

As you likely are aware, human cases of swine influenza virus infection have been identified in the United States. A number of the identified cases have been school-aged children. As precautionary measures, a school in New York City and a school in Texas where cases were identified among students have closed for a temporary period.

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has increased surveillance including testing of patients who are being evaluated for influenza-like illnesses. One probable case of this new swine influenza has been reported in Minnesota. State health officials are monitoring the situation closely.

MDH is not recommending any school closures at this time. The situation may change if the MDH identifies cases among school-aged children. At this time based on the recommendations of the MDH, the school district is recommending that you emphasize basic infection prevention measures with your children. These measures include:

- Covering your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing
- Washing your hands often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub
- Staying home when you are sick

In addition, the MDH recommends that you see your local health provider immediately if you or your children have flu-like symptoms if your or your family has been to Mexico or to parts of the U.S. with confirmed cases of swine influenza, or if you or your family have been in contact with sick persons who have been to one of the areas with confirmed cases of swine influenza.

The safety of your children is our primary concern. The situation with swine flu is rapidly evolving and we expect that more information will be forthcoming from the MDH. We are committed to keeping our school community informed and will continue to work with the Minnesota Department of Education who provides our school district with up to date information. We will also continue to update our website at www.nfld.k12.mn.us. The following websites are the best sources of information about swine flu.

The Minnesota Dept. of Health www.health.state.mn.us

The Center for Disease Control www.cdc.gov

The World Health Organization www.who.int/en

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this information, please contact your school principal or the school district Health Coordinator Elizabeth Bade at 507-645-1205.

Respectfully,

L. Chris Richardson, Ph.D., Superintendent

Cc Elizabeth Bade

*The Mission of the Northfield Public Schools is to deliver educational excellence
that empowers all learners to participate in our dynamic world.*

An Equal Opportunity Employer