



WAUSAU SCHOOL DISTRICT

Longfellow Administration Center

415 Seymour Street • P.O. Box 359 • Wausau, WI 54402-0359 • (715) 261-0500 • Fax (715) 261-2503 • www.wausau.k12.wi.us

Stephen F. Murley
Superintendent of Schools

H1N1 Influenza (Swine Flu) Update

May 1, 2009

Donald J. Viegut, Ph.D.
Deputy Superintendent
of Education

Cherna A. Gorder
Assistant Superintendent
of Business

Jeffrey J. Gress
Director of Human Resources
and Employee Relations

On April 27, 2009, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security declared a public health emergency in response to recent H1N1 Influenza outbreaks in the U.S., Canada, and Mexico. At this time there have been no confirmed cases, but several probable cases in Wisconsin. However, there have been reports of human cases in 10 states and at least one death has occurred.

The Wausau School District is monitoring the situation closely. School officials are coordinating efforts with the Marathon County Health Department. **At this time, local health officials are not recommending that we close any Wausau School District schools.**

The District is vigilant about cleaning all touchable surfaces such as door handles, computer keyboards, headphones, desktops, and bathroom fixtures on a daily basis with special cleaners that have residual germ-killing properties.

Administrators and staff will be observing students for any flu-like or upper respiratory symptoms (fever, cough, and difficulty breathing) and will direct anyone with these symptoms to the school nurse or health aide.

The Wausau School District, state, and federal officials are stressing the importance of prevention with students, parents, and staff. We are reminding people to observe basic infection control practices for preventing the spread of the flu:

1. Keep children home from school if they are sick. Contact your health professional if the child exhibits flu-like symptoms.
2. Remind children that the best defense is frequent hand washing (with soap or alcohol-based hand cleaner). They should avoid touching their eyes, nose, and mouth with their hands as germs spread that way. Covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or doing so in the upper sleeve—and not your hands—is also essential.
3. Practice good health habits. Get plenty of sleep, remain physically active, manage stress, drink plenty of fluids, and eat nutritious food.

Please check the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Web site (<http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>) or the Wisconsin Department of Health Services at <http://pandemic.wisconsin.gov> frequently for updates and revised recommendations.