



Mary F. Piper, Ed.D.
Interim Superintendent

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September 25, 2009

Dear Hazelwood School District Parents/Guardians:

Earlier this week, a student at Hazelwood Central High School passed away. We are saddened by the loss of our student; our thoughts are with the family and friends of our student.

This has been reported as a presumed death from the H1N1 flu. However, the actual cause of death is still under investigation by the St. Louis County Health Department. The investigation is in its early stages and we cannot confirm the cause of the student's death at this time.

The Hazelwood School District is working with the St. Louis County Health Department to practice methods of prevention of the H1N1 influenza. In fact, we have taken all precautions as suggested by the Health Department. We continue to practice universal health precautions, which includes encouraging students to frequently wash their hands, coughing into their shoulder or inside their elbow, avoiding the sharing of personal items and using hand sanitizer. Furthermore, our custodial staff is cleaning areas and items that are more likely to have frequent hand contact, like doorknobs, desks, faucets and handrails. We have installed hand sanitizers in common areas and are currently in the process of installing them in classrooms. We also disinfect the school buses.

If your child is displaying flu-like symptoms, you can help us by reporting the symptoms of illness to the office, as well as keeping your child home for at least 24 hours after the fever disappears (without the use of fever-reducing medications).

In mid-October, the Health Department will distribute the H1N1 vaccine. HSD nurses will administer the vaccinations at no charge to students and staff at school. In addition, vaccinations will be available for community members at no charge. When we have specific information, we will widely publicize it. HSD has an H1N1 plan, and it is posted on our Web site at www.hazelwoodschoools.org.

Please be assured that we are doing everything possible to minimize the impact of the flu and any other illnesses in our schools. We appreciate your help in keeping our students and staff healthy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary F. Piper".

Dr. Mary Piper
Superintendent