



Kalamazoo County

Health & Community Services

Linda Vail Buzas, MPA
Director, Health Officer

April 28, 2009

Dear Parents,

Over the past several days, we have heard much in the media about the swine flu. The CDC, along with MDCH, has been closely monitoring this outbreak. The swine flu poses a similar threat as the common seasonal flu, but potentially could become more serious. Influenza of any kind can be significant. Symptoms of swine flu include: cough, fever, fatigue, sore throat, chills, headaches, and body aches; and possibly diarrhea and vomiting. Anyone experiencing these symptoms should call a healthcare provider. Swine flu viruses are not transmitted by food and a person cannot get swine flu from eating pork products.

Representatives from area school districts and Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services have been working together over the last few years on strategies to deal with flu epidemics. We are doing all we can to make sure any type of flu does not spread through our schools. We are prepared to take appropriate action depending on the situation.

At this time, we are advising parents to follow basic guidelines for influenza prevention.

- If you or your child becomes ill, stay at home and limit contact with others to keep from spreading illness. If your child is ill, let the school secretary know what the symptoms are when you call to report the absence.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol cleaners are also effective, if soap and water are not available.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.

Kalamazoo County Health and Community Services Department has activated a hotline to provide information to the public at 269-373-5300. Our website is being updated as information becomes available. Information and a link to the Centers for Disease Control with the most up-to-date national information can be found at www.kalcounty.com/hcs.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Linda Vail Buzas in blue ink.

Director, Health Officer

Handwritten signature of Richard M. Tucker in blue ink.

Chief Medical Officer

