August 26, 2009

Dear Parents:

The purpose of this letter is to give you information concerning the planning the district is doing to minimize the spread of the H1N1 Flu (Swine Flu), and possible actions in case there is a serious outbreak this school year.

Flu can be spread easily from person to person, primarily through sneezing and coughing. Some of the preventive actions include educating our staff and students to cover their mouth and nose with a tissue, or their elbow, when they cough or sneeze; insuring that there is easy access to soap and running water for hand washing; reminding staff and students to practice good hand hygiene; regular cleaning of surfaces in school that have frequent hand contact; sending staff and students home who are ill with advice to stay home at least 24 hours beyond the break in their fever; providing protective masks for school staff who care for sick students at school and masks for students when needed to protect caretaking staff; and working closely with our county public health officials.

If the flu conditions become more severe, we will consider the following in coordination with the county public health officials:

- Extending the time sick students and staff are to stay home for up to 7 days.
- Conducting active fever and symptom screening of students and staff in school.
- Considering ways to increase social distances between students and staff.
- Considering how and when to dismiss students from school by working closely with county public health officials. Our goal is to keep school open for students and functional normally during this flu season.

We need your help to prevent the spread of the flu and to keep our schools functioning as usual. Here are some things that you can do to help:

- Teach your children to wash their hands often with soap and water. Set an example yourself.
- Teach your children to cover their coughs and sneezes with tissues or to cough or sneeze into their elbow (not their hand). Set an example yourself.
- Do not send sick children to school. Keep sick children at home for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever without using fever reducing drugs.
- Give some thought for caring for your children if they were home for an extended period of time and insure that the school has accurate emergency information for your children.

For more information, visit www.flu.gov, or call 1-800-CDC-INFO for the most current information about the flu. For local information, you may visit the district website at www.tusdnet.net, or the website for the San Luis Obispo County Public Health Department at www.slocounty.ca.gov/health/publichealth. The Health Department may also be contacted at 805-781-5500. We will notify you of any changes or new information on the district’s efforts to prevent the spread of the flu.

Sincerely,

Deborah Bowers, Superintendent