

April 30, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians:

We are continuing to monitor the current H1N1 flu situation. The Department of Health and Human Services declared a public health emergency which enables the federal government to execute emergency plans to fight the virus strain and distribute antiviral medication, as well as other critical measures. Additionally the Food and Drug Administration is working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and National Institutes of Health to develop a potential vaccine.

Our nursing staff remains in contact with the Rockland County Department of Health. It has been recommended that you continue to monitor your children for any suspicious symptoms including:

- fever, along with
- cough and congestion
- muscle aches
- lethargy
- possibly nausea, vomiting and diarrhea

Children identified as having these symptoms should be kept home and you should contact your health care provider. Some simple preventative measures include:

- teaching children to wash their hands frequently and for at least 20 seconds
- teaching children to sneeze or cough into their elbow
- reminding children to keep their hands away from their mouths, noses and eyes
- teaching children the proper use of hand sanitizers

People are encouraged to NOT believe everything they hear on TV or the radio. Masks are not necessary; hand washing is always the best first protection. The confounding factor at this time is the intense allergic response many are experiencing. The differential is fever between suspected cases and patients of concern, or allergic conditions. At this time a temp of 100 deg F is a factor of concern. **Please know that the three potential cases of the virus in Rockland County are not confirmed.** When or if they are, we will contact you immediately and take the needed precautionary measures to protect our students. Remember that fear and hysteria are as communicable as any disease.

Additional information can be obtained from the following websites: www.cdc.gov; www.nyhealth.gov; www.schoolservicesny.com. A 24 hour free hot-line has been established for New Yorkers at 1-800-808-1987.

We will continue to keep you informed of any new information we receive.

Best Regards,

Lee Hancock, Ph.D.
Head of School

P.S. Please check the website and *Recorder* for all health concerns.