



District School Board of Pasco County

7227 Land O' Lakes Boulevard • Land O' Lakes, Florida 34638 • 813/ 794-2000

Heather Fiorentino, Superintendent

www.pasco.k12.fl.us

Dear Parent,

As you are probably aware, the H1N1 flu (Swine Flu) has continued to affect children and adults throughout the summer, and we expect that we will be seeing influenza-like illness in our schools as students return to school.

The best way to prevent the flu is by getting your flu shot each year. Preparations for a vaccine that will protect against H1N1 flu are underway, yet the vaccine will not be available for several months.

Our schools are taking all the necessary precautions to maintain a safe environment for students in the meantime. We are asking for your assistance in preventing the spread of flu among students and staff by doing the following:

- **Keep sick children at home.** If you or your child exhibits flu-like symptoms - sudden onset of fever (greater than 100), and a cough or sore throat (body aches and vomiting or diarrhea may also occur) – please stay at home and contact your primary health care provider.
- **Cover cough and sneezes.** Teach your child to cover their cough or sneezes with tissues or by coughing into the sleeve of their elbow. Dispose of tissues properly, and then wash hands thoroughly.
- **Wash hands with soap and water.** Teach your child to wash their hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds or as long as it takes to sing the “Happy Birthday” song twice! If soap and water are not available, hand sanitizer gels, rubs, and wipes may be used.
- **Have alternate childcare available.** Working parents should have a plan in place for childcare in the event their child becomes ill. In most cases, your child can return to school after he or she has been fever-free for at least 24 hours **without** taking fever-reducing medication.

The Pasco County School District staff share your commitment to keeping children safe and healthy. We will continue to work closely with the Pasco County Health Department to control the spread of H1N1 flu in schools. Thank you for working with us to keep our schools healthy. For more information about H1N1 Swine flu, visit www.cdc.gov/H1N1 or www.MyFluSafety.com or contact Florida’s toll-free H1N1 Swine Flu information line at 1-877-FLA-FLU1 (1-877-352-3581).

Sincerely,

Heather Fiorentino
Superintendent

David R. Johnson, MD, MS, MHA
Director, County Health Officer
Pasco County Health Department