



Twin Valley School District

4851 N. Twin Valley Road · Elverson, PA 19520

Telephone 610-286-8611 · FAX 610-286-8608

April 30, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Recently there have been reports about an illness known as the swine influenza. Swine flu is a respiratory disease that typically infects only pigs; however, in late March and early April, cases of human infection were reported in Mexico, then Southern California and Texas. Most recently, other cases have been reported in New York, Kansas, Ohio, and Michigan. There have also been confirmed cases of swine flu in humans reported in several other countries.

As a precautionary measure, the United States declared a public health emergency on April 26th. The World Health Organization raised the level of influenza pandemic alert from phase 4 to 5 on April 29th. The status change is based on evidence of human-to-human transmission of the virus and the ability of the virus to cause community-level outbreaks.

We will be reviewing with all staff good hygiene practices over the next few days. In addition we ask parents to remind children to cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue whenever possible and to throw tissues away once used. Hand washing is equally as important and parents should remind students to wash hands or use alcohol-based hand cleaners when hands are visibly soiled or after certain activities such as wiping the child's nose.

Our school nurses will continue to follow normal procedures and will send home any student who exhibits flu-like symptoms. In such cases, nurses will recommend that parents follow-up with their child's physician. If your child exhibits flu-like symptoms at home, please keep your child out of school and contact your health care provider. If a doctor suspects or confirms a student has the swine flu, the child's parents should report the case to the school nurse. The school district would report any confirmed cases of swine influenza to the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

If a case of swine flu is confirmed in a member of the school community (students or staff members), decisions regarding further actions and control measures will be made in consultation with the Pennsylvania Department of Health. The Pennsylvania Department of Health suggests that when a case is identified in a school setting, actions regarding that case should be considered on a case by case basis as there may be circumstances where less disruptive alternatives to school closings or event cancellations can be employed.

The Twin Valley School District Administration will continue to monitor this issue along with county and state health officials. If you have any questions or concerns, please call your child's school nurse. Also, click [here](#) for more information regarding the swine influenza and the most recent information from the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

Sincerely,

Robert F. Pleis
Superintendent