



COUNTY OF BUCKS

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Neshaminy Manor Center, 1282 Almshouse Road, Doylestown, PA 18901 - 215-345-3318

FIELD OFFICES

Bucks County Government Services Center, 7321 New Falls Road, Levittown, PA 19055 - 215-949-5805
Bucks County Government Services Center, 261 California Road, Quakertown, PA 18951 - 215-529-7000

County Commissioners

CHARLES H. MARTIN, Chairman,
JAMES F. CAWLEY, ESQ., Vice-Chairman
DIANE M. ELLIS-MARSEGLIA, LCSW

Director

DAVID C. DAMSKER, M.D., M.P.H.

Dear Parent or Guardian:

As H1N1 flu has continued to spread throughout the United States during the summer, we expect that we will have cases now that schools have re-opened.

H1N1 is a lot like regular (seasonal) flu, and there should be no more concern for your child's safety than with the seasonal flu. Therefore, we will handle cases of H1N1 much like we handle cases of seasonal flu in the late fall and winter each year. We will work with school nurses and administration to monitor the illness in the community and distribute information as necessary. At this point in time, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the PA Department of Health, and the Bucks County Department of Health are **not recommending** school closure for clusters of H1N1 flu unless faculty or student absenteeism interferes with the school's ability to function. If H1N1 vaccine becomes available, you will receive more information regarding parental consent and the vaccine through your child's school nurse.

You and your family can help reduce the spread of flu in our schools by following some simple guidelines.

- Watch yourself and your child closely for signs of flu-like illness. Any person/child with fever of 101 or greater and a cough or sore throat should stay home until he or she has been completely without a fever for 24 hours.
- Remember to cover coughs and sneezes and wash hands frequently with soap and water.
- Remind your children to dispose of tissues in an appropriate container and keep hands and fingers away from eyes and mouth.
- If you become concerned about your child's health, please call your doctor.
- If you are contacted by the school nurse to pick up your ill child from school, please do so quickly to help prevent the spread of illness to others.

If you are interested in more information regarding the H1N1 flu virus, please go to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website accessed at www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu or call the Bucks County Department of Health H1N1 hotline (877) 477-4492.

Sincerely,

David Damsker, MD, MPH
Director
Bucks County Department of Health