



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
EDUCATION ACTIVITY
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SEP - 1 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL DODEA STAFF

SUBJECT: Pandemic Message from the Director

With all the recent reports about the H1N1 flu virus in the media, I wanted to let you know that DoDEA continues to monitor the situation closely. Our school principals and nurses across the system are in regular communication with local military health professionals and installation commanders regarding this international health concern. Schools are an integral part of the community planning process for any potential pandemic or outbreak and we will follow the advice, guidance, and direction of military medical professionals and commands should an outbreak occur. Principals will notify parents and staff promptly.

The federal government has a website with information on planning for individuals and families at <http://www.pandemicflu.gov>. In addition, the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and other public health agencies recommend some simple practices to ensure a healthy environment for all. These steps should be followed ALL the time and not only during a flu pandemic:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way. Influenza is thought to spread mainly person-to-person through coughing or sneezing of infected people.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- Health care professionals suggest that if you feel sick, stay home from school or work to prevent spreading illness and that children should be fever symptom free for 24 hours before returning to school. Consult with your health care provider if you are concerned about your symptoms.

Administrators

Please work with your staffs to “spread the word” concerning these helpful practices.

Suggestions:

- Principals can review these practices during a faculty meeting and reiterate precautions and preventative measures in their newsletters, bulletins, school web sites, parent nights, etc.
- Other possible methods of communication could be implemented through the distribution of CDC’s Cover Your Cough/Clean Your Hands posters, which were distributed during March/April. Please see attached for further distribution.
- Another avenue of opportunity would be to encourage your student councils to conduct proper hygiene campaigns.

Teachers

Please remind your students to wash their hands frequently or use alcohol-based hand sanitizers.

Additionally, we are working with the Area Directors to provide funds for the purchase of the alcohol-based hand sanitizers for every classroom. Currently, there are plans for responding to a pandemic and we are developing more specific plans for the ‘worst case’ scenario, i.e. no school for weeks at a time. It is imperative that we work together to ensure a healthy environment.

The health and well being of our students and staffs are a priority. I want to assure you that we will work collaboratively with the military commands to do everything possible to address this global concern.



Dr. Shirley A. Miles
Director