

May 20, 2009

Dear Parents,

Late last night, after we were notified of one confirmed case of H1N1 (Swine Flu) at the Howell Road School, the Nassau County Department of Health advised us that school **should** remain open. We have been diligent about educating our students regarding hygiene and disease prevention, and we are reviewing our procedures again and on a regular basis. We will also continue to work closely with the Nassau County Department of Health and will keep you informed with the latest information.

In addition, our custodial staff is routinely cleaning the building with particular emphasis on common areas such as desks, tables, and bathrooms. All classroom and special area teachers are reminding students, and providing opportunities for them, to wash their hands and use hand sanitizers frequently throughout the day.

All building principals are monitoring attendance. Students and staff with any flu-like symptoms will be asked to remain at home. We strongly urge you to reinforce good disease prevention practices with your family members. These practices include:

- Wash hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based cleaners, especially after coughing and/or sneezing
- Avoid touching eyes, nose and mouth
- Cover nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing
- Remain at home if diagnosed with influenza, for 7 days after symptoms begin or until symptom-free for 24 hours

Additional information is available at our website, www.valleystream13.com, including a link to the Nassau County Department of Health. If you have any questions please contact me at 568-6110.

Very truly yours,

Elizabeth Lison
Superintendent of Schools

