



## Maine School Administrative District No. 68

*Serving the communities of Charleston, Dover-Foxcroft, Monson and Sebec*

Ann B. Bridge, Superintendent of Schools

TO: Parents, Students, and Staff  
FROM: Ann B. Bridge, Superintendent of Schools  
DATE: May 1, 2009  
RE: H1N1 Influenza (Swine Flu)

The intent of this memo is to help increase awareness about the H1N1 flu, to prepare for a H1N1 pandemic flu that could make many people sick, and to inform you of the process our school district(s) will use should a confirmed case occur within our school community.

It is important to know that at this time, there are no confirmed cases of the H1N1 flu in any of our Sebec, Dover-Foxcroft, Monson, and Charleston communities. However, public health officials are worried this flu virus may spread rapidly since it can spread easily from person-to-person.

Several days ago, President Obama elevated the level of the likelihood that a pandemic will occur in the United States to Level 5. As a result, state officials have provided school superintendents with the steps we need to take should we have a confirmed case by the Maine Center for Disease Control (CDC). Key school personnel have already met to discuss how we will address any cases confirmed (CDC) in our schools.

How will SAD #68 handle a CDC confirmed case of the H1N1 flu?

1. State officials will require that the school facility that has an individual with a confirmed case be immediately closed for seven days. The number of days the school is closed could increase should additional confirmed cases occur within those seven days.
2. Additional school facilities within the district could also be closed if a student or an adult with a confirmed case of the H1N1 flu has a sibling or child in another building within the district or if the individual rode a school bus that is used to transport students to multiple school buildings.
3. If we must close one or more of our schools, we will use the "snow call" notification system to immediately inform parents and staff about the closing. Please know that this could occur during the school day, so if parents/students need to alter the way you receive this notice (i.e. phone), please contact your child's school ASAP with your new contact information.
4. Because of our close relationship with Foxcroft Academy, Rowell's Bussing and Weymouth's Bussing, we will work closely with their administration to coordinate our communication efforts.
5. If it is determined that we must close our schools, we will continue to update parents and staff by using our "snow day" phone system, posting information on the district website at [www.sad68.org](http://www.sad68.org) and by sharing information with the local media.

6. If we are required to close any of our schools, the Department of Education has already informed us that those school days will be waived so we will not be required to make them up at the end of the school year. However, the local school board will determine the extent and timing of any make up time locally.
7. The custodial staff is also doing their best to increase their efforts to sanitize all of our facilities to help reduce the spread of this virus.

What/should people do to limit the spread of the virus and to prepare should a confirmed case surface in our communities?

1. Individuals who are sick should stay home. Symptoms of the H1N1 flu include: fever, muscle pain, cough, respiratory difficulty, and a runny nose.
2. Wash your hands with a lot of soap and water for 20 seconds and teach your children how to properly wash their hands. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
3. Cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or by coughing into the inside of the elbow.
4. Stay at least three feet away from people who are sick.
5. If you have recently traveled away from your home, pay attention to your own health.

I encourage you to review the information available at [www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/individual/checklist.html](http://www.pandemicflu.gov/plan/individual/checklist.html) for additional information regarding the steps individuals should take to prepare for an influenza pandemic.

Please know that should there be a CDC confirmed case of H1N1 Flu within our school community, we will work closely with state officials to make sure we follow all recommended procedures and will continue to communicate with members of our communities as new information becomes available.

Individuals who have additional questions or concerns should contact me at 564-2421 or 564-6535 Ext. 1115 or via email at [abridge@sad68.org](mailto:abridge@sad68.org).