



West Allegheny School District

FINDLAY TOWNSHIP © NORTH FAYETTE TOWNSHIP © OAKDALE BOROUGH

Dear Parents:

This letter will help you and your family prepare for a flu pandemic that could cause many people to become ill. At this time, it is important to know that **there is no pandemic flu of any kind** in the United States. There is also no bird flu or avian flu in the United States.

Public health officials are concerned that the avian/bird flu virus could change so that it could infect people and spread very quickly and easily from person to person. This would cause a worldwide flu outbreak known as a pandemic.

Public health officials want people to protect themselves against pandemic flu. The following suggestions are ways that you can help protect your family:

- Keep children who are sick at home. Do not send them to school.
- Teach your children to wash their hands a lot with soap and water for 20 seconds. Be sure to set a good example by doing this yourself.
- Teach your children to cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or by coughing into the inside of the elbow. Be sure to set a good example by doing this yourself.
- Teach your children to stay at least three feet away from people who are sick.
- People who are sick should stay home from work or school and avoid other people until they are better.

Enclosed with this letter is a checklist to help families prepare for a pandemic flu outbreak. This information can also help your family prepare for any emergency. In addition, you can obtain further information from the following sources:

Federal Government Website – <http://www.pandemicflu.gov>

American Red Cross – <http://www.redcross.org>

Allegheny County Health Department – <http://www.achd.net/>

Allegheny County Health Department Information Line – 412-687-ACHD (2243)

If you have any questions, please contact the nurse at your child's school or your healthcare provider.

Sincerely yours,

William Englert, Jr.
Assistant to the Superintendent
for Personnel and Student Support Services