



## Davis Joint Unified School District

### Student Services

526 B Street, Davis, CA 95616 530/757-5300 ext.116 FAX 530/757-5416

Dear DJUSD families,

As you all know the concern about the effect of the novel H1N1 virus this coming flu season has created a great deal of information coming from many sources. We want to assure you that the DJUSD is in constant contact with federal, state, and local authorities and that we are receiving instruction directly from our Yolo County Health Officer, Dr. Joseph Iser.

This letter will address the most common questions and concerns we are hearing from our community.

**Q: How are parents being informed about how to protect their children?**

A: We are using multiple means to communicate with families and students.

- Our website has posted the information and directives from Yolo County.
- Elementary students have received a handout to take home.
- Listserves and PTA newsletters will help us reach secondary student homes.
- Materials are to be posted in each classroom and in common areas and offices.
- Principals are receiving updated information at regular meetings and leading discussions with their staff.

**Q: How is the district trying to control the spread of germs?**

A: We are taking all the recommended precautions.

- Elementary classrooms have sinks and soap for use throughout the day.
- Secondary classrooms will have a supply of hand sanitizer.
- Routine cleaning by our custodial staff will focus on areas most frequently touched by students and staff, such as desks, doors, etc.
- Students will be strongly encouraged to properly cover coughs and sneezes.

**Q. If the student becomes ill at school, what will happen?**

A. The protocol for handling a student with both flu-like symptoms AND a fever include the following additions to our normal response.

- Parents will be called immediately to pick up the student and will be given the pertinent information to report to health care providers.
- The student will be supervised in a place that is isolated from other children
- A respiratory mask will be placed on the student as a precaution to the spread of the virus.
- Parents will be asked to report any results of a health care appointment to the school so that the district can comply with tracking seasonal and/or novel H1N1 flu.

**Q. When can the student return to school?**

A. After the student has had no fever for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medicines. This may take 3-5 days.

**Q. Does the parent or siblings of an infected student need to stay home?**

A. At this point, there is no directive from federal, state or local authorities to recommend or require parents or siblings to stay home. Of course, if any other family member begins to show symptoms, they should stay home to be sure they are not also getting this flu.

**Q. What can families do to help?**

A. The Center for Disease Control and our local health authorities strongly recommend the following:

1. Read the attached flyer for the information about the symptoms and preventative measures you can take with your children and in your home.
2. Do NOT send a sick child to school, especially with a fever. S/he will be sent home right away.
3. Have a back-up plan to care for your child when s/he has to stay home during the length of the illness.

**Q. Will schools be closed if students have the novel H1N1 flu?**

A. At this time, we do not expect to close schools.

**Q. Why are the county and school districts responding to the viral outbreak of novel H1N1 so differently now than they did last Spring?**

A. When H1N1 first appeared, health authorities did not know what to expect so they took the maximum precautions. Over the last year, national and international data has been collected. We now know that the symptoms and effects of H1N1 are similar in severity to seasonal influenza. If the course of the illness changes, DJUSD will communicate with families as soon as possible.

**Q: Will there be a vaccine for this flu?**

A: The normal *seasonal flu* vaccine is already available through private doctors and is also available free from public health services. We have been told that the vaccine for the *novel H1N1 flu* will be available sometime in late October but the first doses will be distributed to health care workers and then to individuals who are high-risk for this particular flu. Wide distribution would come a month or so later.

We will continue to communicate with you as new information or directives come to us. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your school site or the district office.

Sincerely,

Pamela Mari  
Director of Student Services

