



LENAPE VALLEY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

28 SPARTA RD. - STANHOPE, NEW JERSEY 07874

Telephone 973-347-7600

October 27, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Earlier in the school year, I had corresponded with all families to provide information regarding the current flu pandemic. Since the closing of school in June, we have had numerous meetings with the Sussex County Department of Environmental and Public Health Services explaining the various components of this flu outbreak. Enclosed in that mailing was a letter from the Sussex County health agency providing parents with information and resources to handle this health situation, which is available on our district website.

As the month of October progresses, we have had an increase in the number of students that have been sent home and/or are absent due to flu-like symptoms. To date, our daily attendance percentage is at 93%, down from our 95% average. However, I want to alert parents that having absenteeism due to these flu related illnesses in the month of October is a concern and needs to be carefully monitored. We are emphasizing to staff, students and parents to be conscious of their everyday health actions in order to prevent the spread of the flu, such as washing hands frequently and using the hand sanitizers available in the building, and when sick remain at home.

Once again I would like to review and share some of the major elements provided to us by the state and county health organizations. The protocols that we are following are those that have been established by these national, state and county health organizations.

- The flu is identified by a 100°F fever or higher, sore throat and a persistent cough.
- When your child is ill, we are asking you to keep them at home.
- The CDC has indicated that a student should remain at home until they have been fever free for a 24-hour period without any medications.
- If your son/daughter is kept home, please contact the attendance hotline (extension 106) and designate that your son/daughter is home due to flu-like symptoms.
- The county and state are asking us to keep track of all flu related illnesses and the percentages of students impacted.
- The optional vaccination is now available.
- By contacting the County Department of Environmental and Public Health Services, you will be able to locate a county vaccination center.
- Return to school note has been created and is available on our district website at, www.lvhs.org.

This national health crisis requires the cooperation of everyone involved. I would like to emphasize further that if your child is ill, the best place for them is to remain home. If you have any further questions, I have listed below the phone numbers of the county and state agencies, as well as important websites.

For more information on 2009 H1N1 Flu, please visit the Sussex County Department of Environmental and Public Health Services website at, www.sussex.nj.us/health or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website at, www.cdc.gov.

- Sussex County Dept. of Environmental and Public Health Services - 973-579-0370
- New Jersey Health Call-In Center - 1-866-321-9571

It is my plan to provide parents with flu pandemic updates through the use of correspondence and our district website. It is my hope through our unified efforts we can minimize the impact of this flu outbreak on our school district.

Sincerely,

Paul A. Palek, Jr.
Superintendent

PAP/ejr
Enclosure