

MARY ELLEN HANNON  
Superintendent of Schools  
MARYANN CONNORS-KRIKORIAN  
Assistant Superintendent  
KATHERINE L. KENNEDY  
Human Resource Director  
JANE M. SIMARD  
Business Administrator  
MINDY SCHUMAN-VYE  
Title I Coordinator



## Derry Cooperative School District #1

NH School Administrative Unit #10

CHRISTOPHER K. KELLAN  
Director, Student Services  
JAYNE M. BOYLE  
Assistant Director  
JOAN M. CAMPO  
Assistant Director  
LINDA A. DIGNEY  
Assistant Director  
SERENA A. LEVINE  
Director, Supplemental Services

June 8, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians:

This letter will give you updated information about the flu called H1N1 identified in the United States and how that might affect us at the Derry Cooperative School District.

**Recently, we have been notified by the Derry Health Department that there have been an increasing number of confirmed cases of students currently attending Barka, West Running Brook, and East Derry who have tested positive for the H1N1 flu. We have been in contact with the NH Department of Public Health as well as the Derry Public Health Department and have been assured that each of the students are recovering at home and have not been seriously ill due to the flu. Although the illness may not have been confirmed at your child's school or grade level, we know due to activities children participate in the community during the spring, that your child may be in contact with someone who may have the flu virus. It is important to keep you informed so that you can be aware of the symptoms if your son or daughter becomes ill. If your child does present with symptoms described below in this letter, please keep your child at home to lessen the spread of the illness in the schools. We have continued to be diligent with our cleaning process both during the day and after school hours. Preventative measures will be the most effective in keeping the spread of the virus to a minimum. Below in this letter is an overview of the flu symptoms and precautions that you and your family can take. We will continue to update you with additional information when we receive it.**

It is important that you stay well informed about what is happening. While officials are learning more about this new flu virus, they know it is contagious and it spreads from person to person much like seasonal flu. In New Hampshire, those people who have had the new flu have been mildly ill and are recovering well. Still, as with seasonal flu, there are some people who may be at higher risk for complications including those people 65 years and older, children younger than five years old, pregnant women, and people of any age with chronic medical conditions. School closure is not advised at this point for a suspected or confirmed case of novel influenza A (H1N1) and, as with seasonal influenza, generally is not advised unless there is a magnitude of faculty or student absenteeism that interferes with the school's ability to function, which we have not seen.

The best advice is to use healthy habits to prevent getting ill and to contact your healthcare provider as you usually would if someone in your family is ill. Some actions you can take for you and your family are provided below. Accurate and updated information about this outbreak can be found on the CDC webpage, including information about cases in NH: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>. The CDC also has dedicated pages to parents and caregivers that you may find helpful: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/parents/>. In addition, NH DHHS site continues to post valuable information including a Frequently Asked Questions Fact Sheet for New Hampshire Schools and Childcare Programs: [http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/DHHS/DHHS\\_SITE/swineflu.htm](http://www.dhhs.state.nh.us/DHHS/DHHS_SITE/swineflu.htm).