



Harford County Public Schools

102 S. Hickory Avenue ♦ Bel Air, MD 21014 410-838-7300 Fax 410-893-2478

Patricia L. Skebeck, Interim Superintendent of Schools

AlertNow Script -- 5-3-09, 7:00 p.m.

Good evening. This is Teri Kranefeld, manager of communications for the Harford County Public Schools, calling to update you in an effort to keep you current with accurate information on the H1N1 Influenza (Swine Flu) as it effects our schools. The Governor announced on Friday a revised policy on school closures in accordance with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidance. The new policy states that the State will close any public or private school and cease all extracurricular activities for up to 14 days in the event a student is deemed "probable" for the H1N1 influenza virus. The definition of a "probable" H1N1 influenza case as defined by the CDC is an individual with flu-like symptoms who is laboratory test positive for influenza type A but negative for seasonal influenza." At this time, one adult has been identified in the county as probable, however it has been determined that this case does not affect our schools. For answers to any questions you may have regarding the flu, please call the State's H1N1 Swine Flu Hotline at 1-877-633-5848 or visit swineflu.maryland.gov. Again, this is an evolving situation and we will continue to provide you with timely updates regarding any school closures as this situation unfolds. To keep track of Harford County Public Schools status regarding the flu, log onto our website at www.hcps.org and click the H1N1 Swine Flu link at the top of our homepage. We will continue to update the site with current information as it relates to our school system and provide you links to accurate information about the virus. The Health Department recommends that we continue practicing preventative measures such as washing your hands often, covering your mouth and using a paper tissue when coughing or sneezing, and throwing the tissue away after use. Thank you for your time and attention. Again, this is Teri Kranefeld for Harford County Public Schools.