October 23, 2009

Dear Walled Lake Schools’ Parent/Guardians:

As part of the district's continued effort to keep you up-to-date on the H1N1 flu, we wanted you to know Walled Lake Consolidated School District has had an average daily attendance, across the district, this week of 98 percent. At Smart Middle School, the average daily attendance for the week was 91 percent.

The H1N1 flu has received a lot of attention in the media and, therefore, we felt that it was important to tell you we are keeping track of the numbers of student absences by school and by district. We want to thank you for keeping your children home when they have flu symptoms and for reporting your child’s illness when they do stay home. We realize it is flu season and in accord with health officials, we will be reporting numbers of students with flu symptoms to the Oakland County Health Department. However, we will not be sending home a letter each time we receive notice of a confirmed case. To date, we do not have any physician-confirmed cases.

At this point, the mid-west and more specifically southeastern Michigan has not had any widespread outbreaks of H1N1. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) is not recommending school closure in the event of a single case or even mild outbreaks of the H1N1 flu. School closures will only be considered if a large number of students or staff members are absent. If there is 25 percent or more absent at the elementary, middle or high school levels, the district will consider the option of closing. District administration will inform parents in the event of a school closure by our automated phone fan-out system and posting on the district website. If a school is to be closed for any reason, the Health Department suggests students not gather at another location, but rather stay home to avoid continued spread of flu outside of school.

Please help us minimize the number of students who become ill this school year by:

- Avoiding contact with infected or sick people whenever possible.
- Coughing or sneezing into your sleeve.
- Not touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs are spread this way.
- Staying home and avoiding contact with others if you or your children get sick.
- Washing your hands often. Wash with soap and hot water for at least 20 seconds.

The district will continue to make decisions based on the recommendations of city, county, and state public health organizations as well as the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and will keep you updated with new information as it becomes available.

Sincerely,

William A. Hamilton, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

We're making tomorrow!