

### Points of interest regarding H1N1:

- Health experts dictate our communication plan, and health experts are continuing to say the same thing: act as if H1N1 exists in your school and community and take proper care at all times! Do not wait for or rely on a school-district letter because nobody has the mechanism to reliably and consistently report who has H1N1 and who does not. Expect that you will encounter someone with the H1N1 virus sometime during your day, and take the appropriate hygienic steps to protect yourself.
- We do not have the logistics to track H1N1 as a school district. We have many reports of students who may or may not be sick with actual H1N1 every day. Plus, health experts are saying NOT to go to a doctor if you have a suspected case because the system will be overrun. So the school district has no consistent data flow. Again, parents are much better advised to act as if H1N1 were in their community already (in Safeway, in school, at church...).
- On the counter side of the argument: we have had concerns from individual families with H1N1; they do not want to be pariahs at their school by being pinpointed as ground zero.
- Parents of medically fragile children need to take appropriate steps as a family. The CDC recommends avoiding public gatherings all together if the student's needs are that high risk. But it's a parent's choice.
- We talk with King-County Public Health regularly and sit in on weekly conference calls to make sure we are following the best advice.
- Unlike strep throat or lice—for which we do send home classroom letters—health experts cannot identify a single source or contain one small environment to quarantine H1N1.

Here's a good article that sums up health experts' advice: [Swine flu is serious, but no cause for alarm.](#)