



August 2009

Dear Parents:

The number one priority of District #66 is the safety, health, and welfare of our students and staff. H1N1 virus may present some challenges for this, and we want to be prepared.

H1N1 has caused widespread illness, ranging from mild to severe in the United States, Illinois and around the world. H1N1 began circulating in the spring, and experts at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) believe it will continue to cause illness during the upcoming flu season, which usually begins in the fall and lasts until the spring. H1N1 influenza has been particularly severe in children because they lack immunity to the virus and are considered at high risk of infection.

The federal government is currently working to develop a vaccine for the H1N1 influenza virus and the CDC recommends that children between 6 months and 18 years of age receive the H1N1 vaccine. The H1N1 vaccine is expected to be available in mid-October and children will likely need two doses of the vaccine, either a shot or nasal spray, spaced about three weeks apart. We urge you to speak with your doctor or local health department about where you may obtain vaccinations for your children and any other questions about seasonal flu or H1N1 influenza. You can also keep informed about the flu at www.ready.illinois.gov or www.flu.gov.

District #66 will follow all recommendations of the CDC and ISBE. We will promote good hand washing and preventative measures. We also recommend students and staff to remain home if they have a fever.

We will be monitoring our attendance closely, and we will be reporting to the state on suspected and confirmed cases.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roy S. Webb'.

Roy S. Webb
Superintendent
Canton USD#66