

School District of River Falls

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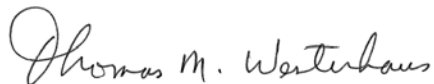
Dear Parents/Guardians,

In a letter I wrote to you on May 1st concerning Influenza A (H1N1) (previously called swine flu), I indicated that if a student or staff member had a probable or confirmed case of the influenza virus, parents would be notified that one or more schools would be closed by the county for a period of time. Since that letter, the Center for Disease Control, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, and Pierce County Department of Public Health have all informed school districts of the following new information: "Most U.S. cases (of Influenza A H1N1) have not been severe and are comparable in severity to seasonal influenza....Decisions about school closure should be at the discretion of local authorities based on local considerations."

The recommendation from these health agencies is that school closure is not advised for a suspected or confirmed case of the influenza unless there is a magnitude of faculty or student absenteeism that interferes with our schools' ability to operate. Therefore, I will be reviewing each incident on a case-by-case basis and not automatically closing school as my earlier letter indicated. Incidentally, our schools and local counties have **NO PROBABLE OR CONFIRMED CASES OF INFLUENZA A H1N1** at this time.

Please continue to take necessary precautions identified in my earlier letter about hygiene, keeping children home from school when they are ill, and watching for the symptoms of the virus. Your assistance with this effort is much appreciated!

Thank you.



Dr. Tom Westerhaus
Superintendent of Schools
River Falls Public Schools