

TO: Students, Parents, and School Staff

FROM: Chuck Hatfield  
Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Health Precautions and Procedures

DATE: April 30, 2009

Please be assured that Putnam County Schools is aware of and being cautious during the current health concerns. We are working to protect the health of students, staff, and community members during this period by following the guidance of the West Virginia Bureau for Public Health recommendations regarding Swine Influenza A (H1N1), as follows:

*Given the fact that swine flu cases in the US to date have been of a severity similar to seasonal flu, current guidance is much the same.*

***Prevention involves staying away from others who are ill; handwashing; avoiding touching eyes, mouth, or nose; covering coughs and sneezes; and avoiding crowds or heavily congested settings.***

***Persons with febrile respiratory illness should stay home from work or school to avoid spreading infections, including influenza and other respiratory illnesses, to others in their communities.***

*Similar to seasonal flu, patients should seek care based on severity of symptoms. For general swine flu information, see [http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/general\\_info.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/general_info.htm). Guidance on caring for a patient with swine flu at home can be found at [http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/guidance\\_homecare.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/guidance_homecare.htm).*

We ask that schools continue to maintain levels of cleanliness and promote hygienic practices as we continue to follow the recommendations of the Bureau for Public Health and the CDC.