

*Searcy Public Schools  
801 North Elm Street  
Searcy, Arkansas 72143*

Dear Parents,

It is once again time to begin a new school year and we trust that you had a restful and enjoyable summer break. As we approach the fall and winter months we will once again be dealing with the annual allergy symptoms, colds and seasonal flu strains. This year we must be aware of the latest flu strain – the H1N1 Virus (swine flu). This virus is a national concern and we must all work together and take proactive actions to help prevent its spread. The best defense is good information and responsible action.

**Please find below a list of actions the Searcy School District is taking to ensure the safety of all students and employees:**

- Receiving, monitoring and sharing all pertinent information as appropriate. Participating in informational meetings and working closely with local and state health departments and the Arkansas Department of Education.
- Following closely the recommendations and protocols established through the Arkansas Department of Health and the National Centers for Disease Control.
- Monitoring staff and students and following guidelines of care for individuals who manifest “flu-like” symptoms in school.
- Sharing, encouraging and teaching proper health behaviors.
- Stocking and making available proper hand washing supplies and/or hand sanitizers.
- Encouraging parents to become informed and to use their best judgment in managing their family’s health.
- Encouraging all ill employees and students to remain at home until fully recovered.
- Continuing building maintenance and sanitizing efforts.

**Symptoms of H1N1 are very similar to the symptoms of regular seasonal flu and include: fever of 100 degrees or more, sore throat, cough, headache, body aches and fatigue. Some people have reported runny nose, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea.**

**We need all parents to keep ill children at home. Children who are sick with a fever of 100 degrees or more and a cough, sore throat or body aches should stay home. Students diagnosed with H1N1 (swine flu) need to stay home for at least 7 days and longer if symptoms persist. Students MUST be symptom/fever free for 24 hours before returning to school. Students and staff who become ill at school will be sent home immediately. Please make sure your child’s school has correct contact information.**

**What you can do to prevent the spread of H1N1 Virus:**

- Sneeze or cough into a tissue and throw away immediately. If a tissue is not available, use your elbow or sleeve, not your hand.
- Wash hands thoroughly and often. Alcohol based sanitizers are also effective.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth. Germs are spread easily this way.
- Contact the school nurse if your child exhibits any flu-like symptoms.
- DO NOT share water bottles, utensils, cups, food, etc. with others.

Accurate and updated information can be found on the CDC webpage: <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/parents/> If you have any additional questions, please contact your child’s school nurse. We thank you for your continued support and your efforts in managing this health concern.

Sincerely,

Trey McMinn

Health Services Supervisor

Tony Wood

Superintendent of Schools