



Easton Area School District

1801 Bushkill Drive • Easton, PA 18040-8186 • 610-250-2400

August 2009

Dear Parents or Guardians,

As you may know, flu can be easily spread from person to person. Therefore, we are taking steps to reduce the spread of flu in our district. We want to keep the schools open to students and functioning in a normal manner during this flu season **but we need your help to do this.**

We are working closely with local and state agencies to monitor flu conditions in order to make decisions concerning our schools. We will keep you updated with new information as it becomes available.

If the flu becomes more severe, we may take additional steps to prevent the spread such as: 1) conducting active fever and flu symptom screening of students and staff as they arrive at school, 2) making changes to increase the space between people such as moving desks farther apart, postponing class trips and, 3) dismissing students from school for at least seven days if they become sick.

We are doing everything we can to keep our schools functioning as usual. Here are a few things you can do to help:

- **Teach your children to wash their hands** often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub. You can set a good example by doing this yourself.
- **Teach your children not to share personal items** like drinks, food or unwashed utensils, and to cover their coughs and sneezes with tissues; covering up their coughs or sneezes using the elbow, arm or sleeve instead of the hand when a tissue is unavailable.
- **Know the signs and symptoms of the flu.** Symptoms of the flu include fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit, 37.8 degrees Celsius or greater), cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and feeling very tired. Some people may also vomit or have diarrhea.
- **Keep sick children at home** for at least 24 hours *after* they no longer have fever or do not have signs of fever, without using fever-reducing drugs. Keeping children with a fever at home will reduce the number of people who may get infected.
- **Do not send children to school if they are sick.** Any child who is determined to be sick while at school *will be sent home.*

Visit www.flu.gov, or call 1-800-CDC-INFO for the most current information about the flu. For more information about flu in our community and what our school is doing, please visit <http://www.eastonsd.org/Wellness/Home.html>. We will notify you of any additional changes to our school district's strategy to prevent the spread of flu.

Sincerely,

Susan McGinley
Superintendent of Schools

EASTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT

The Easton Area School District respects the diversity of its student population and is dedicated to the importance of developing our students into responsible citizens. We will provide each student with an academically challenging program that enhances creativity, develops an ability to use technology, and encourages critical thinking and problem solving. In support of this mission, we will ensure a safe instructional environment and promote life-long learning.