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Dear Parents,

October 21, 2009

I wanted to take this opportunity to update you about the H1N1 influenza. As a district, we are in contact with the Portage County Health Department in an effort to stay abreast of current information on this issue.

Over the past few days we have seen the number of individuals with influenza-like illness increase at Crestwood. At this time we have no confirmed cases of H1N1 in Crestwood Schools but the health department has advised us that H1N1 "will be, or already is" in all Portage County Schools. The Center for Disease Control, has stated that school closings are *not* advised for suspected or confirmed cases of H1N1 unless there is a magnitude of faculty or student absenteeism that interferes with the school's ability to function.

As of this date we have not been assigned dates for the school –site vaccinations that will be provided by health department personnel. As soon as we receive the dates and procedures we will mail the information to parents with permission slips.

The most effective way to protect people from the flu and other illnesses is to keep sick people away from healthy people. If your child is sick, you must keep your child home. Staying home when sick stops the spread of the flu and other illnesses and helps the sick person get well

The Center for Disease Control recommends that individuals with influenza-like illness remain at home until at least 24 hours after they are free of fever (100 degrees or greater), or signs of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medications.

Students, faculty and staff who appear to have an influenza-like illness at arrival or become ill during the day will be isolated promptly in a room separate from other students and sent home.

As we did in the spring, we will continue to monitor for any outbreaks of the virus in our schools and provide you with periodic updates utilizing the district website and/or the Alert Now system. Once we have the dates for school-based vaccinations we will provide.

Joe Iacano
Superintendent