



# *Morris-Union Jointure Commission Board of Education*

**Kim B. Coleman, Psy.D.**  
*Superintendent*

**Janet L. Parmelee, Ed.D., J.D.**  
*Assistant Superintendent*

**Susan Yaniro**  
*School Business Administrator/Board Secretary*

340 Central Avenue  
New Providence, NJ 07974-2300  
(908) 464-7625  
Fax: (908) 464-1244  
Business Office Fax: (908) 464-5240  
Website Address: [www.MUJC.org](http://www.MUJC.org)

September 8, 2009

Dear Morris-Union Jointure Commission Parents and Guardians,

As we begin the new school year, I wanted to assure you that, as a school district, the Morris-Union Jointure commission has been working with the Union County Health Department, the Center for Disease Control (CDC), and other school districts to prepare for the possible increase in the Novel H1N1 influenza (swine flu) that is anticipated this fall.

Our top priority in the Morris-Union Jointure Commission School District is to keep staff and students safe and healthy. We continue to receive health updates from the New Jersey Department of Education and the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services regarding changes in protocols and procedures. Any information that we receive about the H1N1 flu will be sent to you via email or sent home with your child. We will also post information on our district website ([www.mujc.org](http://www.mujc.org)).

Important recommendations from the CDC, issued on August 5, 2009 about the amount of time persons with flu-like illnesses should be away from others, stipulates that those with symptoms and illnesses should remain home at least 24 hours after they are free of fever and without the use of fever reducing medications. Subsequently, we cannot emphasize enough the importance of keeping your child home if he or she is not feeling well and until recovery is complete. Students should not be sent back to school unless all symptoms of their illness have disappeared. They should be fever-free for 24 hours, and they should not have vomited or had diarrhea in the last 24 hours. An extra day of rest is very beneficial as it speeds up recovery and prevents the spread of influenza or other respiratory illnesses to others.

As a school district, our classrooms and common areas will be cleaned on a daily basis with a disinfectant cleaner that is effective in killing the H1N1 germs. Age appropriate hand washing posters are being hung in all of our school bathrooms, hallways, and classrooms. The CDC no longer recommends closing a school with confirmed cases. Instead, it advises that classrooms and common areas be disinfected regularly, as we had done last spring.

In one final effort to keep our students as healthy as possible, we ask that you assist the district in promoting good hygiene by talking with your children, regardless of their ages, about hand washing and basic hygiene. Regular hand washing is the number one recommendation of all health organizations and medical professionals when asked how best to prevent influenza and

*Berkeley Heights • Bernards Township • Boonton • School District of the Chathams • Clark • Clinton Township • Cranford • Florham Park • Harding Township • Kenilworth • Livingston • Long Hill Township • Madison • Millburn • Montville Township • Mountainside • New Providence • Roselle Park • Scotch Plains-Fanwood • Somerset Hills • South Orange-Maplewood • Springfield • Summit • Union Township • Warren Township • Watchung Borough • Watchung Hills Regional • Westfield • West Orange*

other contagious illnesses from spreading. Therefore, all students will be required to wash their hands four (4) times during the school day. According to the CDC, up to 80% of infections are transmitted by our hands.

We will do our very best to share important health updates with you, and we ask that you do the same. Please notify your child's school nurse in the event your child becomes ill so that we may monitor the number of flu-like cases in our schools.

Attached for your information is a letter from Lester Jones, Director, Union County Office of Health Management, and Dr. Carmen Centuolo, Executive County Superintendent of Union County Schools regarding steps being taken to reduce the spread of flu in our schools.

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we continue to try to do what is best for our students, staff, parents, and community members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K.B. Coleman", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kim B. Coleman  
Superintendent

KBC:cc  
Attachment



STATE OF NEW JERSEY  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
Union County Office  
300 North Avenue East  
Westfield, N.J. 07090  
Tel: (908) 654-9860 • Fax: (908) 654-9869

Jon S. Corzine, Governor

Lucille E. Davy, Commissioner

Carmen M. Centuolo, Ed.D., County Superintendent

September 3, 2009

Dear Parent,

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 schools. We want to keep the school 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 the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services and Local Health Departments to monitor flu conditions and make decisions about the best steps to take concerning schools. We will keep you updated with new information as it becomes available.

**If the flu becomes more severe**, schools may take additional steps to prevent the spread such as:

- conducting active fever and flu symptom screening of students and staff as they arrive at school,
- making changes to increase the space between people such as moving desks farther apart and postponing class trips, and
- dismissing sick students from school.

For now we are doing everything we can to keep our school 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 children who are determined to be sick while at school *will be sent home*.

Each of our school districts and health departments in the county are collaborating on influenza prevention measures and guidelines regarding vaccine administration. For more information, visit [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov), or call 1-800-CDC-INFO for the most current information about the flu. For more information about flu in your community and what your school is doing, visit your school district website or call your local health department. We will notify you of any additional changes to our schools' strategies to prevent the spread of flu.

Sincerely,



Lester Jones  
Director, Union County Office of Health Management

*Carmen M. Centuolo, Ed.D.*

Carmen M. Centuolo, Ed D.  
Executive County Superintendent of Union County Schools