

Friday, October 30, 2009

H1N1: The flu season is upon us. Fortunately, our numbers of ill children and staff have not reached the high levels other communities have experienced. Just this week, the Stevens County Health Department received their first shipment of H1N1 vaccinations. The vaccine now available is the live attenuated flu mist. If you know of individuals interested in receiving the vaccination, or have questions, they may go to the Health Department and put their name on the vaccination sign up list. They will also do a prescreening to see what category fits the individual. Each county in Kansas is given a specific value so the more people that sign up and show interest in the vaccination, the more vaccinations our Health Department will be able to request.

District Flu Policy: Our school policy remains, students and staff should not be at school until they are 24 hours completely free from any flu symptoms and/or fever without any medication. Thank you nurses, offices, staff and parents for having tough love related to adherence to this important district policy. I believe our compliance and firmness with this district rule is mitigating/diminishing the overall cases. I appreciate all the efforts to ensure we are united in fighting the flu.

High Risk Individuals: For the majority of our population, if they get influenza A, which in many cases is indeed H1N1, they will be ill for 5 to 7 days, and they will experience an illness and recovery much like the normal, seasonal flu. However, for those high risk individuals (individuals with diabetes, pregnant women, asthmatic and/or heart conditions), this can be a very serious virus. It is highly advisable for all high risk individuals to sign up and receive the H1N1 immunization.

Middle School Construction: About one third of the MS slab has been poured. The total square feet of the new MS space will be 39,000 when completed. This coming Monday, a crew of twenty workers from Buccola Masonry out of Amarillo, will begin erecting cement block walls. By the end of this coming week, another large area of slab on grade will be poured. This will put the MS project back on pace for completion in one year. Please check out our district web site and click on the link, "construction updates," to see pictures and explanations of this work. <http://www.usd210.org/>

Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC): Site preparation and dirt work began earlier this week for the new ECDC. Geotechnical tests were performed on Wednesday of this week before the rain. The soil compaction is in good shape and there were no soft spots found. We are expecting to hear back soon on the approval of the Stevens County Emergency Mitigation plan. This county plan has to be approved and in place before we can begin erecting the multipurpose room/safe room at the ECDC. The county plan will allow us to be reimbursed for a substantial amount of the cost to build a safe room.

Sincerely,

Mark K. Crawford