

MPS Response to Swine Flu Outbreak Talking Points



MILWAUKEE
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

1. Milwaukee Public Schools is monitoring the situation closely. The district will work with the Milwaukee Health Department (MHD), the Wisconsin Department of Health, and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) for guidance.

a. We will follow all recommendations as provided by the city, state and national health agencies.

b. The district has requested that all outreach materials from the guiding agencies be provided in English, Spanish and Hmong and has offered the services of MPS staff to translate the documents if that service is needed. Over 20% of MPS students are Hispanic; many of their families speak Spanish at home.

c. MPS has requested from MHD a list of health care clinics that serve families with no health insurance or access to a regular health care physician. This will be helpful because 78% of MPS children live at or below the poverty level and many lack basic health care services.

2. MPS is stressing the importance of prevention with students, parents and staff.

a. MPS health care professionals received CDC fact sheets and swine flu prevention information prior to Monday, April 27.

b. We are communicating with our school leaders by providing updates, and sharing with them the link to the MHD Web site and the MHD hotline number.

c. Our nursing staff and our principals have been asked to emphasize proper hand washing in our school sites.

d. Letters for MPS families (English & Spanish) were sent to school sites April 28 for printing and distribution to children to take home. The same letter was provided to our 13,500 staff members via MPS e-mail the same day.

e. An automated phone call was made April 28 to all MPS family homes, with a separate call made to Spanish-speaking households, asking them to monitor their children, practice preventive measures and to seek health care services if necessary. This is a total of approximately 56,000 families, who have a combined total of approximately 86,000 children attending MPS schools.

f. Appropriate messaging will continue.

3. The district has an Emergency Response Team in place if we need to respond to an emergency.

a. Pre-identified district administrators are in place to respond if necessary.

b. MPS will follow all recommendations as provided by the city, state and national health agencies.