

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

850 Hungerford Drive, Rockville, Maryland 20850

May 1, 2009

Dear MCPS Students, Parents, and Staff:

We informed the community earlier today that Rockville High School would be closed on May 1, 2009, because a student at the school has a probable case of the H1N1 Flu, referred to in news reports as Swine Flu. The closure was made under the order of State of Maryland and Montgomery County health officials. At this time, there have been no confirmed cases of the H1N1 Flu in Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS). Of the two probable cases in Montgomery County, only the Rockville case involves an MCPS student or staff member.

Please be assured that the health and safety of students and staff are our top priorities. Closure of Rockville High School was a proactive decision meant to limit the spread of this flu. MCPS is continuously monitoring the situation in cooperation with local, state, and national health officials. Any health-related decisions including school closures, limiting school activities, or making any other changes in school operations will be made in consultation with these health experts.

Although there is cause for concern, it is important not to become alarmed. It is a time to be calm and keep in mind the messages of covering coughs, disposing of paper tissues in proper containers or in plastic bags, washing hands frequently, and staying home if you are feeling ill.

The spread of H1N1 Flu is an evolving situation, and the County health department and MCPS are committed to providing you with up-to-date information as we receive it. You may also contact the Montgomery County Health Information Line at 240-777-4200. It is open seven days a week from 8 a.m. until 8 p.m. County information also is available on the web at www.montgomerycountymd.gov. Information from the state is available at 1-877-633-5848 and on the web at www.maryland.gov.

Respectfully,



Jerry D. Weast, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools