

County Superintendents Prepare for Pandemic Flu

LEBANON, Pa., Lebanon County superintendents met on September 3, 2009 to share information regarding pandemic planning. Members from the county pandemic task force, health officers and the county emergency management agency also attended.

The top priority of this meeting was to share the pandemic preparedness plans of the county school districts, and to create unified procedures for information sharing amongst schools, county officials, and parents. In addition to sharing information regarding the steps schools are taking to prepare for the flu season, and the return of H1N1 influenza, the panel also discussed a procedure for flu-related schools closings.

The objective of each school is to remain open for students under normal operation. Not only is this the objective of the county school districts, it is also the objective of county and state officials. Health officials from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have provided toolkits to schools to help maintain normal school day operation throughout the flu season.

At this time, all county school districts have adopted the following initiatives to prevent wide-spread influenza in schools:

- Staff training via in-services & webinars
- Parent communication via letters & district websites
- Student awareness via posters & classroom discussion
- Cleaning & disinfecting regiments

This is the second meeting of county superintendents regarding pandemic flu. The first meeting, held in July, involved local officials and representatives from the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

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