

SAMPLE LETTER TO PARENTS

Initial Pandemic Flu Outbreak #3: Use this letter to let parents know schools are open

Dear Parents,

This letter will give you information about a flu outbreak in (Enter County here). Every year, some people get sick with the flu during the fall and winter months. This year, there is a new flu virus that is making many people in (Enter County here) sick. So many people are sick in (Enter County here) and the United States that health officials call it a “pandemic flu.”

Currently, a high percentage of our students and staff are ill with the influenza virus. We hope they all have a wholesome recovery.

In consultation with Three Rivers District Health Department, it has been decided that students who are not ill can safely come to school. The schools will remain open. We will keep you updated with any important information.

To keep the flu from spreading to more people, we ask you to keep sick children home. Any children who are sick in school will be sent home.

Three Rivers District Health Department wants you to protect yourself and your family against pandemic flu. Here are some ways to stop the spread of germs and sickness:

- Keep children who are sick at home. Don't send them to school.
- Teach your children to wash hands a lot with soap and water for 20 seconds. Be sure to set a good example by doing this yourself.
- Teach your children to cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or by coughing into the inside of the elbow. Be sure to set a good example by doing this yourself.
- Teach your children to stay away at least three feet away from people who are sick.
- People who are sick should stay home from work or school and stay away from other people until they are better.
- Stay away from shopping malls, movie theaters or other places where there are large groups of people.

If you have questions, please contact your School Nurse or healthcare provider. You can call the school hotline (insert number). You can get more information from Three Rivers District Health Department: Visit online at www.3rphd.org or call 402-727-5396; toll free 866-727-5396.

If the pandemic flu continues to spread and more students become ill, schools may close for days or weeks. The purpose of closing schools will be to keep children from getting sick. If schools are closed, children should stay at home. Begin planning now for childcare in your home.

Recommendations may change during the course of a pandemic flu outbreak.