



**Regional School Unit 1**  
Lower Kennebec Region School Unit  
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*“Education of a Lifetime – for a Lifetime”*

**Member Communities**

**Arrowsic**  
**Bath**  
**Phippsburg**  
**West Bath**  
**Woolwich**

June 12, 2009

Dear Folks,

I wanted to give you an update on recent developments regarding the H1N1 flu, commonly known as the 'Swine Flu.'

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Two students in Bath Middle School have been excluded from school after consultation with the family, physicians and the Center for Disease Control. Two cases have been confirmed and one is listed as 'probable' at this time. The recommended protocol established by the Maine Center for Disease Control has been fully followed and implemented. Those identified with the influenza and those meeting a cluster of symptoms are asked to remain at home for seven days or until symptoms are gone for 24 hours, whichever is longer. It is the responsibility of the CDC and the Department of Education to give the school permission to readmit a student who has been diagnosed with the flu.

It is our policy to notify all parents when there has been a confirmed case in one of our schools. There is so much information on this topic in the press and most parents know that we need to be very vigilant about best practices for health (frequent washing of hands, covering mouth when sneezing, reporting high fevers or flu like symptoms). While we don't want people to get into a frenzy over this virus, neither do we want people to ignore symptoms that could be contagious to others. To date, only 30 cases have been confirmed in Maine, but we do not want to take any of this lightly. We aren't going to cancel school, field trips, and scheduled events. Parents will have to make their own

decisions about their child's participation in school events based on the best information we have to share with all parents.

Influenza can be mitigated by constant awareness to hygiene etiquette, industrial cleaning and educating parents about the importance of keeping their children home with flu like symptoms. We have been more attentive to wiping down table and desks in schools and our buses also have received more attention in this area as well.

We want to assure you that at this time of year, should any child be excluded from school, such absence will not affect grade placement for next year or final grades. We will make every accommodation to prevent any adverse effect on your child's educational standing and your child's teacher(s) will be working with you as needed.

Should any parent have any questions about the H1N1 virus, they can call the school nurse or go to the [www.rsu1.org](http://www.rsu1.org) which has a link directly to the this topic. Parents can call any of the school nurses or the superintendent at any time for more information or direction.

Sincerely,

William C. Shuttleworth  
Superintendent of Schools