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Mayor

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Superintendent



Providence Public School District
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December 2, 2009

Dear PPSD Team:

I am writing to give you an update on the actions that the school district has taken to make sure that the district is prepared to handle the potential impact resulting from the H1N1 virus.

In September, I created an H1N1 task force comprised of representatives from the Health Office, Teaching & Learning, Operations, Human Resources, Communications, Finance and the Providence Emergency Management Agency. The H1N1 task force was charged with developing an H1N1 response plan, tracking daily staff and student absences, and monitoring H1N1 illness within the district. We have also continued to work with the RI Department of Education, RI Department of Health, and the US Centers for Disease Control to ensure timely and accurate information-sharing and coordination, as well as coordinated contingency planning with our transportation, food service, and custodial service providers.

Attached please find a copy of the district's H1N1 response plan. The plan addresses preventative measures to minimize the spread of the H1N1 illness, as well as contingency plans should the district experience a significant outbreak of the illness, including actions to minimize any disruptions to student learning and ensure the continuity of essential operations. Components of the response plan include:

- focus on prevention prior to a significant outbreak
- close monitoring of daily student and staff attendance data, as well as tracking visits to the school nurses and incidences of flu-like illnesses
- school-based continuity of instruction plans to be developed by Principals, lead teachers, and union representatives at each school
- ability to implement a safety-and-security plan in the event that a severe outbreak warrants closing schools

PPSD will keep staff, students, families and the community informed about the status of the H1N1 illness in the district, as well as any changes to H1N1 response plan, including escalation or de-escalation of plan actions.

The health and safety of our students and staff are among our top district priorities. We will continue to monitor the impact of the H1N1 illness and implement the response plan, as appropriate, to keep our PPSD community healthy and safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas M. Brady".

Thomas M. Brady
Superintendent