



# Durham Public Schools

Dr. Carl E. Harris, Superintendent

April 28, 2009

Dear DPS Parent or Guardian:

You may have concerns following news reports of cases of the swine flu in Mexico and the United States.

It is important to note that there have been no confirmed cases to date in either Durham County or the state of North Carolina. It is also very important to note that the cases reported in the U.S. thus far have been relatively mild and not immediately life threatening.

As a precaution, however, Durham Public Schools and the Durham County Health Department want to be proactive and ensure that you have the information necessary to protect yourself and your family from infection should the swine flu spread to this area.

Following are very simple steps you can take to keep your family healthy:

- Wash your hands thoroughly several times a day.
- Avoid touching your mouth, eyes, and nose with your bare hands.
- Cover your mouth when coughing or sneezing.
- If you feel sick, stay home. If your child is sick, do not send him or her to school.
- If you or your child has a fever, especially if it is persistent and exceeds 102 degrees, contact your health provider immediately.

Early treatment of the swine flu is important. If you are concerned for any reason, please contact your health care provider.

Be assured that DPS and the Health Department will do all that we can to ensure the health and safety of our students. We will provide updates if the situation changes. For further information about the swine flu, visit [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov).

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Carl Harris, Ed.D.  
Superintendent  
Durham Public Schools

Gayle Harris, Director  
Durham County Health Department