

PRESS RELEASE

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SUBJECT: **DISTRICT TO RE-OPEN SPRING CREEK ELEMENTARY THURSDAY, MAY 7TH**

Decision Based on new CDC Guidelines & Lee County Health Department Direction

Based on new federal guidelines concerning school closures due to H1N1 (swine flu) cases, officials from the Lee County Health Department (LCHD), Lee County Public Schools and Lee County Emergency Management announce that Spring Creek Elementary School will **re-open on Thursday, May 7, 2009.**

"Because the situation has changed and we have more information now than we did only a few days ago, working with the Lee County Health Department and Emergency Management, the decision has been made to re-open Spring Creek Elementary," said Dr. James Browder, Superintendent of Schools.

However, the Health Department predicts that H1N1 (swine flu) is still circulating in Lee County. Therefore it is the responsibility of **all** Lee County citizens to protect themselves, their neighbors and others in the community by behaving responsibly to minimize the spread of disease. A virus that may only cause sniffles and mild inconvenience in one person may put the next into the hospital.

Consistent with CDC recommendations, the Health Department and Lee County Public Schools agree that the primary means to reduce spread of influenza in schools is:

- To focus on early identification of ill students and staff;
- Staying home when ill;
- And good cough and hand hygiene etiquette.

Students, faculty or staff with influenza-like illness (fever with a cough or sore throat) **should stay home** and not attend school or go into the community except to seek medical care for at least seven days, even if symptoms resolve sooner. Any students, faculty and staff who appear to have an influenza-like illness at arrival or become ill during the school day will be isolated promptly in a room separate from other students and sent home. School staff members will increase their vigilance and if they notice any students or staff exhibiting flu-like symptoms, they will have those individuals report to the school's front office.

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Vision: To be a world-class school system