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October 20, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am writing to make you aware that over the past couple of days some of our schools have observed an increase in illness-related absences. During the same period of time, we have also recorded an increased number of reports of flu-like symptoms.

The health and well being of our students is our top priority, and we are doing everything possible to keep our schools as germ free as possible. Therefore, we are asking all of our families to continue providing assistance by taking preventative measures to combat the spread of germs. Please urge your children to wash their hands often, keep their hands away from their eyes, nose and mouth, and cover coughs and sneezes with their sleeve or a tissue. The Center for Disease Control reports that the most effective way to reduce the spread of any virus is to practice good hygiene.

If a student comes to school with flu symptoms, he or she will be evaluated by our health clerk and nurse and separated from others until the student can be sent home. Students with the flu, or flu-like symptoms should stay home for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever without the use of fever-reducing medicines.

If your child demonstrates flu-like symptoms, including fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headaches, chills and fatigue please keep him/her at home until the symptoms are gone.

Additional information from the Tazewell County Healthy Department related to the H1N1 vaccination clinics will be sent home in the near future. Also, the tentative vaccination clinic schedule and other related information can be found on our website at <http://www.pekin.net/pekin108/parents/index.shtml>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Link".

Bill Link, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Schools