

MISSOURI SAFE SCHOOLS

Newsletter of the Missouri Center for Safe Schools

August 2009

CENTER REMAINS OPEN

As noted in the May newsletter, the state legislature cut much of the professional development funding from the DESE budget for School Year 2009-2010. That funding was the source of the operating budget for the Missouri Center for Safe Schools. Funds carried over from last school year will sustain limited (one-person) operations of the Missouri Center for Safe Schools at Suite 401, Union Station, Kansas City through December 2009, while alternate funding sources are sought.

Because of the loss of grant funding, the Center will need to adjust the cost share for future services. Listed below is the fee structure for School Year 2009-2010:

- Teacher/staff workshops and student presentations, MCSS charges \$100 per hour (\$200 minimum)
- Safety reviews MCSS charges the district according to the following scale:
 - ✓ \$250 if there are 3 or fewer schools
 - ✓ \$400 if there are 4 to 7 schools
 - ✓ \$550 if there are 8 to 12 schools
 - ✓ \$700 if there are 13 to 20 schools
 - ✓ 21 or more schools fee will be determined by cost per building

Russ Thompson

H1N1

In April of 2009 a new influenza virus known as the Novel H1N1 2009 Influenza virus ("swine flu") began circulating first in Mexico and then it spread to the U.S. and throughout the world. A novel influenza virus is particularly worrisome because it is different than other seasonal influenza viruses and most will have no previous immunity to it. Therefore, it is able to cause a worldwide epidemic (pandemic). This virus seems to be affecting the younger population the most.

Fortunately it doesn't seem to be causing any more severe disease than seasonal flu, and has spared the elderly population so far. It caused a great deal of alarm this past summer because little was known about it. As more information has been acquired we have a better understanding of its epidemiology.

The Novel H1N1 influenza virus causes symptoms very similar to seasonal flu: headache, muscle aches and pains, runny nose, fever, cough and in some cases diarrhea. It is transmitted primarily through large droplets via coughing and sneezing and can survive on environmental surfaces for a few hours. It should be noted that although the virus is primarily affecting younger people, it can potentially infect anyone and those with underlying health conditions that put them at risk of influenza complications should be especially careful. Control measures that are practical include good handwashing, respiratory hygiene (i.e.

covering coughs and sneezes), staying home when you are ill, and separating infected persons from others at the first sign of symptoms. The value of wearing facemasks in preventing infection is not known but putting a mask on someone who is coughing or sneezing and keeping them away from others is felt to be helpful.

Unlike seasonal influenza, this virus has caused infections throughout the summer months and has caused many outbreaks in summer camps in Missouri and throughout the country. It is expected to add to the burden of seasonal flu especially in younger persons, therefore schools should be prepared for large rates of absenteeism and expect school closures. It has been suggested that we will see between two to five times the normal rate of influenza this year. Vaccines for both the seasonal flu and the novel H1N1 strain are under development but may not all be available by the beginning of the school year. Unlike the seasonal single shot vaccine, the novel H1N1 vaccine may require two doses in order to be effective.

Currently the world is watching the Southern Hemisphere very closely (their winter is our summer) to see if the virus changes at all. If it mutates it may be able to cause more severe disease and be transmitted more efficiently. The State Department of Health and Senior Services is working with the Centers for Disease Control and DESE to stay abreast of the disease and will keep the school community informed of the latest guidance and status. You can access more information about this virus at www.cdc.gov and at the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services site at www.dhss.mo.gov.

Eddie Hedrick, State Epidemiologist
MO Dpt. of Health and Sr. Services

DISTRIBUTION of SEMA EARTHQUAKE SAFETY BROCHURE

Section 160.457 RSMo makes the distribution of the SEMA Earthquake Safety Brochure **optional** for all school districts except those located in the 47 counties expected to experience an intensity of ground shaking of VII or more on the Modified Mercalli scale from an earthquake occurring along the New Madrid Fault with a potential magnitude of 7.6 on the Richter Scale. Item #5 on the MSIP Standard 8.11 Items Not Waived Checklist Addendum reads: "The district has distributed materials on earthquake safety as required by Section 160.455 RSMo." Since the requirement in Section 160.455 RSMo is made optional in Section 160.457 RSMo for all districts outside the 47 counties, that item is not applicable to school districts outside the 47 counties. The 47 counties are: Adair, Audrain, Bollinger, Boone, Butler, Callaway, Cape Girardeau, Carter, Chariton, Clark, Cole, Dunklin, Howard, Iron, Jefferson, Knox, Lewis, Lincoln, Macon, Madison, Marion, Mississippi, Monroe, Montgomery, New Madrid, Oregon, Osage, Pemiscot, Perry, Pike, Putnam, Ralls, Randolph, Reynolds, Ripley, Schuyler, Scotland, Scott, Shelby, St. Charles, St. Francois, St. Louis, Ste. Genevieve, Stoddard, Warren, Washington, and Wayne.

BULLYING PREVENTION RESOURCE

The U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) published June 5, 2009. "Bullying in Schools." The document is available at

<http://www.cops.usdoj.gov/RIC/ResourceSearch.aspx>. The free publication does a good job bringing together the latest research on bullying prevention. The nine elements of a comprehensive, multifaceted approach to bullying prevention are:

1. A schoolwide policy that addresses both direct and indirect bullying
2. Guidelines for teachers, other staff, and students on specific actions to take if bullying occurs
3. Educating and involving parents so they understand the problem, recognize its signs and intervene appropriately
4. Adopting specific strategies to deal with individual bullies and targets, including meeting with their parents
5. Encouraging students to report bullying
6. Developing a comprehensive system for tracking bullying reports
7. Encouraging students to be helpful to classmates who have been bullied
8. Developing tailored strategies to counter bullying in specific school hot spots, using environmental redesign, increased supervision, or technological monitoring equipment
9. Conducting post-intervention surveys to assess each strategies' impact on school bullying

OLWEUS BULLYING PREVENTION PROGRAM TRAINING

There will be an Olweus Bullying Prevention Program training for trainers at the BJC Barnes-Jewish Hospital Campus in St. Louis, September 14-16, 2009. The Olweus Bullying Prevention Program is a comprehensive school-based program designed to prevent or reduce bullying. The Olweus model has strong research

producing excellent results when implemented with fidelity. Designated as a Best Practice Blueprint Program, it utilizes a whole-school approach which involves school administrators, staff, parents, community and all students: those who bully, those who are bullied, and those who are witnesses. Learn more about the components at: www.olweus.org. For information about the September 14-16 training contact Lynne Lang, 314-286-0504 or lynne.lang@bjc.org.

SRO CONCERNS

During a July 2 workshop on safe schools legislation, participants in the Missouri School Resource Officer Association Conference submitted two concerns regarding the wording of several statutes:

1. There was confusion regarding what a petition is and who the petitioner is, as referenced in two statutes, 167.115 and 167.171. 167.115 RSMo states that law enforcement officials must report to the school superintendent or designee within five days of filing a petition (citing 211.031 RSMo regarding petition) on one of the listed infractions. 167.171 RSMo states that a student cannot be enrolled or readmitted after a petition (citing 211.091 RSMo regarding petition) is filed alleging the pupil has committed one of 11 listed infractions. 211.091 sets forth what a petition must contain. It appears that a petitioner could be any law enforcement officer and that the petition is filed when they submit the required information to the juvenile court. The 5-day clock for notifying the superintendent would begin when the petition is delivered to the

juvenile court. (It sounded like some jurisdictions interpret that the juvenile officer is the petitioner and the clock does not begin until s/he has investigated the matter and taken it to the next level, which would be a later date/time.)

2. There has been confusion about the terminology used in local ordinances regarding assault. Local ordinances use the terminology "simple" or "common" assault. The criteria for those infractions may not be the same as the ones presented in 565.070 RSMo for "3rd degree" assault, which school staff must mandatorily report. (The school staff is required to report 3rd degree assaults as defined in 565.070 RSMo regardless of the local ordinances.)

The Missouri Center for Safe Schools is looking into these concerns. Your input regarding them is requested and can be sent to thompsonrs@umkc.edu. Specific experiences would be appreciated.

It was also proposed by the participants that the reporting statutes (167.115 for law enforcement to superintendent; 160.261, 167.115, and 167.117 for school staff and faculty) should be revised to align the listed infractions.

SAFETY COORDINATOR TRAINING

Please complete Basic Safety Coordinator Training before attending one of our regional Advanced Safety Coordinator Training sessions. Basic Safety Coordinator Training continues to be on-line at the Missouri Center for Safe Schools website (<http://education.umkc.edu/safe-school/>). Basic Safety Coordinator Training

remains the same and you only need to complete that once. Advanced Safety Coordinator Training changes yearly and we would like to have you attend each year.

The regional Advanced Safety Coordinator Training is scheduled as follows for School Year 09-10:

Tue, Oct 13, Northeast RPDC, Kirksville
 Wed, Oct 14, Heart of MO RPDC, Columbia
 Thu, Oct 15, South Central RPDC, Rolla
 Wed, Oct 21, Southeast RPDC, Cape Girardeau
 Thu, Oct 22, St. Louis RPDC
 Tue, Oct 27, Northwest RPDC, Maryville
 Wed, Oct 28, Kansas City RPDC
 Thu, Oct 29, Central RPDC, Warrensburg
 Wed, Nov 4, SW Ctr for Ed Exc, Webb City
 Thu, Nov 5, Southwest RPDC, Springfield

Register for the Advanced Safety Coordinator Training through your Regional Professional Development Center. The topics that will be addressed during the full-day (6-hour) training for School Year 09-10 are:

- Center changes
- Update of the Safety Review Checklist
- Safety Coordinator Survey Findings
- Excel Spreadsheet Tools
 - Safety Committee: Consolidating and Prioritizing Safety Findings
 - Violence Prevention Management
- ERIP
- Catastrophic Events
- Hot Topics

SCHOOL INSTRUCTIONAL USE CHEMICAL CLEANUP

In February 2008 the Missouri Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

allocated money to a grant program that fully paid the contractor fees for school chemical cleanup. Grant applications were accepted through December 2008. Those grant-funded cleanups are all complete.

There were 227 schools that participated in the cleanup. 50,134 pounds of chemicals were hauled away. The grant paid the contractor \$389,000, saving each school on the average \$1800.

Schools/districts that participated in the cleanup should have cancelled their EPA identification number and submitted Generator's Hazardous Waste Summary Report (Form MO780-1097) which is available at www.dnr.mo.gov/forms. For assistance with form completion, contact David Green at DNR, (800) 361-4827. For more information about the grant-funded program go to <http://www.dnr.mo.gov/env/schoolcleanout.htm>.

Let the Missouri Center for Safe Schools know if your district still needs to have hazardous chemicals disposed of. By the end of September, send an e-mail to thompsonrs@umkc.edu with subject: Next Round of Chemical Cleanup. Give the name of the school/district, name of the point of contact, phone number and e-mail address. Attach a list of chemicals to be disposed of: name of chemical, number of containers, size of containers, and percent fill of the containers. At this time, no funds have been allocated for another state-funded cleanup, but without these details we cannot look for funding.

INJURY PREVENTION PROGRAM

ThinkFirst Injury Prevention Program is available free to K-12 schools throughout Missouri. ThinkFirst programs educate young people about their personal vulnerability and the importance of making safe choices. The message is: You can have a fun-filled, exciting life, without hurting yourself if you "ThinkFirst." ThinkFirst speakers—all young people from the Greater Kansas City area—are living testimony to the lifesaving implications of thinking first before driving or riding in a motor vehicle, playing a sport, diving into water, or becoming involved in violence. Buckle up. Drive safe and sober. Avoid violent situations. Lower your risk to fall. Wear a helmet. Check the water before you dive. *Use your mind to protect your body!*

For more information about ThinkFirst go to www.thinkfirst.org. For scheduling in Missouri contact Rose Simone, Director, ThinkFirst of Greater Kansas City, c/o The Research Foundation, 2316 E. Meyer Boulevard, Kansas City, MO 64132, 816-276-3163, rose@theresearchfoundation.org.

Dr. Russ Thompson, Director of the Missouri Center for Safe Schools, is the newsletter editor. If you would like to submit an article for a future *Missouri Safe Schools Newsletter*, please send him your submission by e-mail to thompsonrs@umkc.edu or mail it to:

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