

Andrew J. Spano
County Executive

Department of Health

Joshua Lipsman, MD,JD,MPH
Commissioner

May 6, 2009

An Open Letter to Students, Staff and Parents of the Rye Country Day School community:

I am writing to express my profound regret at the disruption of your school by the up and down events of the past few days.

Our county health department has been closely adhering to shifting guidelines coming from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the New York State Department of Health. Unfortunately, as a result of great uncertainty about the unfolding of the swine flu outbreak in our country, we have all been subject to confusion and dislocation. While much good advice was given and many good decisions made, there also certainly was a degree of over-reaction.

To the extent that I participated and was involved in negative consequences related to my profession's "group thinking" about the outbreak, I am responsible and apologize to you.

I hope you also might see that for the most part our department did our best and provided you with the high quality service that you should expect from us always.

Very sincerely yours,

Joshua Lipsman, MD

