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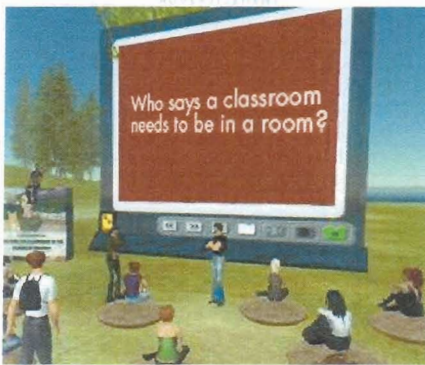
Staff works hard to disinfect camp

Swine flu confirmed among last group of campers.

CORY DE VERA • NEWS-LEADER • JULY 19, 2009

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Barry County -- Last week, hundreds of campers at Kids Across America were sent home a day early after the state Health Department confirmed seven cases of H1N1 flu at the camp near Golden.



But staff at the camp said on Saturday they have worked hard to disinfect the camp in anticipation of 750 to 800 new kids expected to arrive Monday.

"It's not like it's a new thing that you clean with certain disinfectant. We do that every week ... anyway," said Executive Director Dana Thomas.

Staff have not only wiped down surfaces, but also used time-released disinfectant in rooms. Then a Springfield company called Enviren voluntarily offered to spray surfaces with Enviren Mist, a patented formula that company president Justin Hensley said can kill about 100 types of germs and bacteria, including swine flu. Hensley also offered the camp an allotment of the group's hand lotion to further fight germs.



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Mark Harmon, service tech with Enviren, disinfects a bench Saturday at Kids Across America following an outbreak of swine flu. (Cory DeVera / News-Leader)

"Obviously you can't do everything and everywhere, but if you pretty much keep everything sanitized, that's what keeps people from passing along sickness," said Hensley.

His company sprayed down every dorm, eating area and gym.

The camp -- actually four camps covering 250 acres, complete with three health centers staffed with nurses - also always has at least one volunteer doctor at every session, Thomas said.

Though he said he fielded many calls of concern about the swine flu situation, it doesn't sound yet like many parents are planning to keep their children from coming.

The camp serves church youth groups, sports groups and Boys and Girls Clubs looking for a Christian sports camp.

This week he's asking the groups bringing campers to do some screenings before they load the bus. He's asking them to take temperatures, and no one with a fever over 100 degrees should be allowed to come to camp. Families of campers are also being asked to fill out a questionnaire.

"Kids will just tell you whatever they need to tell you to get to camp," said Thomas. "If the family says, 'Yes, we've had someone in our family with swine flu,' that's a red flag. Don't bring that kid to camp. It's not because we don't want them, but this isn't the year for us to try to navigate that."

Thomas said he made the decision to close the camp a day early last week because health care staff was overwhelmed. The camper whose symptoms caused the most concern turned out to have strep throat, he said.

Counselor Raymond Van Buren said he didn't think campers were too worried about -- or even aware -- of



Thomas



Hensley

Van Buren