

May 1, 2009

Dear Parents,

You no doubt have heard the news about the H1N1 (swine) flu in the media. We have NO reported cases of this flu in Friendswood ISD at this time but the district is taking this very seriously. My office will continue to provide new information as it becomes available through the district's website www.fisd12.net.

My staff and I participated in a statewide conference call with staff from the Governor's office and the State Health Department on Monday afternoon. We were informed that if a school had one confirmed case of H1N1 flu, the school would close for ten days. The Galveston County Health District will advise the district if a case is confirmed and decisions regarding school closure will be made at that time.

The University Interscholastic League postponed all UIL activities until later in May. Our website can link you to that specific information. At this time, the district will continue to hold practices and performances, banquets, award ceremonies, etc. as scheduled. Travel outside the district is on hold and may be permanently cancelled, even if those activities are not UIL sponsored activities. All trips will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. Decisions will be made daily and may change as developments occur.

As soon as news about the flu became public, the District took precautionary steps. All administrators were briefed about this illness early Monday morning and nurses are daily reporting to my office the number of students being sent home and if a student is suspected of having the flu. This past Monday, all food service lines at each campus were stocked with hand sanitizer pumps for students and staff to use. The night custodians began disinfecting desktops, doorknobs, and computer keyboards in the evening. Teachers and nurses are encouraging students to cough or sneeze into a tissue rather than their hands.

If your children are sick, please do not have them come to school. If you believe they have the flu, see a doctor.

State authorities informed us that they were acting with an abundance of caution in order to prevent a widespread infection. Since schools are places where many people are together in close quarters, we will continue to take common sense precautions. I remain optimistic and thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Please continue to check our website daily as well as subscribe to the eLOOK and text messaging system. This can be done from the homepage at www.fisd12.net. We will keep updating the website and Channel 16 FISD-tv. In this way, we can get up to the minute news to you as well as save district funds in postage and printing.

Stay Healthy,

Trish Hanks

Superintendent of Schools
Friendswood ISD