

April 28, 2009

Dear Parents:

As you are probably aware, a school district in nearby Guadalupe County, Schertz-Cibolo ISD, has closed all of its campuses for one week because of two mild confirmed cases of Swine Flu. This occurred at the request of the Texas Department of State Health Services. The federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has activated its Emergency Operations Center to coordinate the agency's response to this emerging health threat and the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security has declared a public health emergency in the United States. This will allow funds to be released to support the public health response. Hays CISD has **no** confirmed cases of Swine Flu, however, given the media coverage of the outbreak and our nearness to that area, some parents are understandably concerned.

At all of our campuses, custodians will be disinfecting essentially everything students touch--from door knobs to water fountains to desks to all areas of the restrooms. Every bus will be thoroughly disinfected daily, too. Each of our campus nurses, as well as our WELL Clinic staff, is on alert and has established protocols on handling suspected cases. All of our teachers and staff will be emphasizing hand washing with soap and water, clearly the most effective way to stop the spread of this flu.

Please help us by asking your children to take extra precautions such as not eating or drinking after anyone else and washing their hands often. If your child shows symptoms of any type of influenza, we encourage you to: (1) have them tested at their physician's office or the local health clinic and (2) keep them at home until they are symptom free.

For their own safety and the safety of others, students should not return to school until they have been fever and symptom free for 24 hours without medication. Swine flu is a person-to-person transmission that is treatable with Tamiflu and like drugs.

We are in contact with the Hays County emergency operations officials, who are in close contact with the Texas Department of State Health Services and the state emergency operations center. The Texas Department of State Health Services has established a hot line for anyone who has questions about swine flu, 1-888-777-5320. The CDC also keeps an updated website, <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>. We will post updates on our district website, www.hayscisd.net.

We will continue to monitor the situation closely. We appreciate your support and understanding at this time.