

A Coordinated School Health Implementation of PROACTIVE MEASURES FOR FLU OUTBREAK

In our mobile society, exposure to Influenza-like illnesses can be a possibility in any school and community. Prepared School Districts are implementing the following measures:

- School Nurses or campus clinics monitor symptoms for flu symptoms, which include fever, cough, congestion, and possibly related body aches, vomiting or diarrhea.
- School Nurses or qualified staff teach proper hand washing, cough etiquette, covering nose **AND** mouth when using tissues and disposing of them properly, and precautions of touching your eyes, nose and mouth (self-inoculation), to all staff and students. Teachers reinforce the prevention techniques in their classroom by role modeling and correcting behavior that ignores the precautions. Signs are posted reminding people of preventative measures:

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/swineflu/swineflu.pdf>

- Custodial Staff increase the amount of times that all “touch surfaces” are disinfected, such as telephones, desktops and drawer pulls, door knobs, drinking fountains, push surfaces, stair handrails and chair backs. Soap and handgel dispensers are refilled regularly and touch points on the hand dispenser cleaned when refilled.
- Administrators are informed about latest confirmed cases and the proximity to their campus, especially siblings of any confirmed case, and are informed of measures to be taken as communicated by TX Education Agency and TX Dept of Health bulletins, regarding the flu outbreak. A plan should be in place to notify parents by letter and on the website. A plan is established to allow ill staff, or staff that have an ill family member that has to be cared for, to remain at home, to prevent further exposure.
- Local Healthcare providers, law enforcement and daycare centers are also a part of a community-wide communication link.

Links for updated information:

<http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/swineflu/default.shtm#pub>

<http://ritter.tea.state.tx.us/taa/comm042709.htm>

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