



Spring Branch Independent School District

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Dear Parent(s) and Guardian(s),

In Spring Branch ISD, we already have taken several steps to prevent the spread of flu in our schools and are actively monitoring the 2009 H1N1 Influenza (Swine Flu). To date, we have taken the precautions listed below.

- Training our staff members on the symptoms of H1N1
- Providing information on classroom precautions to decrease the spread of disease
- Sending students exhibiting symptoms to the school nurse or clinic immediately
- Having custodians clean all surfaces touched by hands, including water fountains
- Ordering hand sanitizer for each classroom and increasing our stock of Kleenex®
- Updating school and district websites with H1N1 information and precautions

The flu is spread easily from person to person, and school-age children are among the groups most affected. We want to keep our schools open and functioning in a normal manner during the flu season. ***But, we need your help to do this.***

Our district staff and nurses are working closely with the Department of State Health Services (DSHS) and the City of Houston Health Department to monitor flu conditions. We will keep you updated with information as it becomes available.

Both state and national experts at DSHS in Austin and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta have indicated that most H1N1 cases in the United States are not severe at this time, but a resurgence in cases is possible. Trials for the H1N1 vaccine are under way, but distribution of this vaccine will not occur until sometime later this fall. ***To help you and your family, please read the following carefully:***

- **District plan.** Based on CDC guidance, we currently do not plan on closing schools due to outbreaks of the H1N1 flu.
- **High fever or other symptoms.** The CDC and DSHS recommend that students with fevers of 100.4° or higher be sent home immediately and stay home until at least 24 hours after they no longer have fever or signs of a fever. This should be determined without the use of fever-reducing medications that contain ibuprofen and acetaminophen such as Tylenol or Advil. H1N1 flu symptoms include a fever greater than 100.4°, headache, cough, sore throat, aches, and possibly vomiting and diarrhea.
- **Clearance by school nurses.** Students diagnosed with H1N1 need to be cleared by their school nurse before returning to classes. We will consider medical provider's determination in deciding when a student or staff member may return.

For questions regarding SBISD school policies, please contact your campus. You can find additional prevention tips at www.springbranchisd.com under the Back to School site. Visit www.flu.gov, www.texasflu.org, or call 1-800-CDC-INFO to learn about national updates. We will notify you of any additional changes to SBISD's plans or strategies to prevent the spread of flu.

Sincerely,

Duncan F. Klussmann, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Inspiring minds. Shaping lives.

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www.springbranchisd.com