



EANES INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Nola H. Wellman, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools

601 Camp Craft Road • Austin, Texas 78746 • (512) 732-9001 • FAX (512) 732-9005 • www.eanesisd.net

August 18, 2009

Dear Eanes ISD Community,

As we prepare for back-to-school activities, Eanes ISD is staying current on health developments and recommendations regarding the flu in our state and region. We know that cases of Type A flu and of the H1N1 strain have continued to occur in Central Texas throughout the summer. It is likely that we will see more cases of flu this fall.

Although some factors are difficult to control, Eanes ISD is working hard to be prepared and stay ahead of this issue. Our Maintenance staff will continue thorough cleaning and disinfecting of areas used by students in order to maintain the most sanitary conditions possible. A supply of hand sanitizers also will be available for our students and staff. As our students return to school, staff members will emphasize good general health habits that help prevent the spread of any contagious illness: hand washing, covering cough, not sharing cups, etc., and staying away from others when ill. The symptoms of Type A flu include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. A significant number of people who have been infected with this virus also have reported diarrhea and vomiting.

All flu viruses are spread through coughing or sneezing by someone who has influenza. As such, it is important that **anyone with flu-like symptoms should stay home from school** and see a physician for diagnosis, treatment and instructions. The most recent recommendation from federal officials is that students remain at home until at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever or signs of a fever (without the use of fever-reducing medicine). In addition, we request that parents alert the school nurse on your child's campus if a student is diagnosed with any Type A flu so that we can monitor the number of cases we experience.

According to information we have received from local health authorities, a vaccine specifically for the H1N1 flu is expected to be available in October; we will pass along more details to our families as they become available.

For more information on Type A flu or the H1N1 virus, visit the following websites:

The Centers for Disease Control website <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/update.htm>
Flu.gov – “Know What To Do About the Flu” <http://www.pandemicflu.gov/>
Texas Department of Health Services <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/swineflu/>

We encourage our staff, students and parents to place a priority on good health habits this coming year. Welcome back!

Sincerely,

Nola H. Wellman, Ph.D.
Superintendent of Schools