



October 2, 2009

Our staff, parents and students are working together to maintain a healthy school environment in our schools. Thank you for reminding kids to wash hands and cover mouths, and for keeping children at home when they are ill.

Eanes ISD continues to monitor student attendance rates, which dropped slightly this week to an average of about 94 percent. Prior to this week, the district had remained in the 95-96 percent range. Some campuses have experienced days of lower attendance, but these dips generally have improved within a few days. Teacher absences have not been higher than average. The district also is analyzing attendance data to see if an individual grade level or classroom experiences an increase in absences. In many cases, we have asked teachers in those areas to re-emphasize good health messages and we have targeted additional cleaning efforts in those classrooms.

Remember to keep children home at least 24 hours after a fever or signs of a fever (without the use of fever-reducing medicine) have disappeared. Although we know our students are anxious to return to their classrooms and activities, this is an important factor in preventing the spread of illness.

District officials continue to participate in weekly calls with state and regional health officials to stay abreast of any new developments. School districts throughout the state have experienced and reported an impact from flu-related illness. In fact, to this point, Eanes has fared relatively well. Health officials report that most cases of flu are mild to moderate, and that serious cases have occurred mainly in patients with underlying health conditions. We encourage our parents of students with special medical conditions to be especially vigilant in monitoring your child's health and to address specific concerns with your school nurse.

Information on flu-related topics is posted under "Flu Information" on the front page of the district's website: [www.eanesisd.net](http://www.eanesisd.net). Those with additional questions regarding the flu also may call 2-1-1.

The seasonal flu vaccine is being recommended by health officials. Eanes ISD currently is offering seasonal flu shot clinics for staff, students and families. As in years past, the cost is \$25. The administration of vaccines for these clinics is being coordinated by Flu Busters. Next week's schedule is as follows (enter at front office, except for Westlake HS):

Monday, Oct. 5:	Barton Creek Elementary	7:00 to 8:30 a.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 6:	Hill Country Middle School	7:30 to 9:00 a.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 7:	Westlake High School	7:00 to 9:00 a.m.*
Thursday, Oct. 8:	West Ridge Middle School	7:30 to 9:00 a.m.

\*Westlake Community Performing Arts Center entrance

In addition, Eanes ISD is making plans to provide the vaccine for the novel H1N1 flu as soon as it is available, which is expected to occur in mid-October. We have requested enough doses for staff, students and community members; however, we have received some indication that we may not immediately receive all the doses we have ordered. We will make an announcement about shot clinics as soon as we know more. A small administration fee will be charged.

Thank you again for your vigilance in emphasizing good health habits.