



September 16, 2009

Thank you for your efforts to support a healthy learning environment in Eanes ISD. We entered the school year anticipating that we would see cases of flu and other illness this fall. In the past week, Eanes ISD has had a slightly higher-than-average student absentee rate district-wide, and attendance continues to be monitored daily. At this point, student absences have been higher at the secondary level than at elementary schools. Staff absences have been average as compared to other years.

As expected, we have had some reports of Type A flu, including what are suspected to be H1N1 cases, as well as other types of illness. Currently the Health Department is not tracking every case of flu and most physicians are not testing specifically for the novel H1N1 virus, which is being treated in the same way that seasonal flu is treated. The symptoms of Type A flu include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Some patients also have reported diarrhea and vomiting.

Eanes ISD is urging families to take some simple precautionary measures to help reduce the spread of illness. The three main areas of emphasis are:

- Wash hands thoroughly and frequently.
- Cover cough or sneeze, either with tissue or by coughing into one's sleeve.
- Stay home when sick. The most recent recommendation we have received from health officials is to remain home until at least 24 hours after a fever or signs of a fever (without the use of fever-reducing medicine) have disappeared.

Our Maintenance staff continues thorough cleaning and disinfecting of areas that experience frequent hand contact in order to maintain a high standard of sanitary conditions. A supply of hand sanitizers also has been provided in classrooms and throughout our school buildings for our students and staff.

Eanes ISD will offer clinics for staff, students and families for two types of vaccines: seasonal flu vaccine and the novel H1N1 flu vaccine. Seasonal flu clinics are planned for late September and early October; a schedule and consent form is available on the district website. As in years past, the cost is \$25. The administration of vaccines for these clinics is being coordinated by Flu Busters.

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. Yesterday the U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced approval of H1N1 vaccines. Through Flu Busters, EISD has reserved enough doses for staff, students, and community members. Clinics will be scheduled at multiple campuses as soon as the release date is announced. A small administration fee will be charged.

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

The Centers for Disease Control:	http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/update.htm
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services:	http://www.pandemicflu.gov/
Texas Department of Health Services:	http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/txflu/

We encourage our staff, students and parents to continue their emphasis on good health habits.