



Message from the Superintendent

Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District



October 26, 2009

Dear Key Communicator:

As you may be aware, a national emergency has been declared due to the H1N1 virus. **Forty-six states, including Texas, are reporting widespread influenza activity at this time.** The reports indicate the number of cases is unprecedented for seasonal flu. Almost all of the influenza viruses identified so far are 2009 H1N1 Influenza A viruses. These viruses remain similar to the virus chosen for the 2009 H1N1 vaccine, and remain susceptible to the antiviral drugs oseltamivir and zanamivir (Tamiflu and Relenza).

Other facts supporting the increase of the H1N1 virus are:

- The steep weekly increase of visits to the doctors in the United States for influenza-like illness;
- Higher influenza-like illnesses compared to the peak of many regular flu seasons (January and February); and
- Increasing rates of influenza hospitalization for laboratory-confirmed flu.

What does this mean for CFISD?

- CFISD continues to work closely with HCPHES, which is staying updated with information from CDC.
- School nurses are now reporting student and staff absences to the HCPHES daily;
- Students will continue to be sent home if they have **a temperature of 100 degrees or higher.**
- Students and staff must stay home until they are **fever-free for 24 hours** without the aid of a fever-reducing medication.

Harris County Public Health Environmental Services (HCPHES) expects the number of flu cases to continue to escalate over the next few months in the Houston area. Good hygiene practices-proper handwashing, "covering your cough", and social distancing from those who are ill are the most effective strategies in minimizing the spread of the H1N1 virus in our community.

Let's work together to keep our students and community as healthy as possible.

Sincerely,

Dr. David Anthony, superintendent
Cypress-Fairbanks ISD