



## WISD Action Plan to Prevent the Spread of Flu

WISD is taking the following steps to help keep students from getting sick with flu:

- 1. The Nurses will visit each classroom district wide to**
  - **Educate and encourage students and staff to cover their mouth and nose** with a tissue when they cough or sneeze. Also, provide them with easy access to tissues and running water and soap or alcohol-based hand cleaners. Remind them to cover coughs or sneezes using their elbow instead of their hand when a tissue is not available.
  - **Remind teachers, staff, and students to practice good hand hygiene**
- 2. Send sick students, teachers, and staff home** and advise them and their families that sick people should stay 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).
- 3. Clean surfaces and items** that are more likely to have frequent hand contact such as desks, door knobs, keyboards, or pens, with cleaning agents that are usually used in these areas.
- 4. Make hand washing and sanitation stations widely available** in lunchrooms, restrooms and classrooms
- 5. Move students, teachers, and staff to a separate room** if they become sick at school until they can be sent home.
- 6. Have Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as masks** available and ensure the equipment is worn by school nurses and other staff caring for sick people at school.
- 7. Encourage early medical evaluation for sick students and staff** at higher risk of complications from flu. People at high risk of flu complications who get sick will benefit from early treatment with antiviral medicines.
- 8. Stay in regular communication with local public health officials.**
- 9. Keep parents informed** with regular updates to our web site, newsletters etc...

### On school closings

The Center for Disease Control and Texas State Health Services Department guidance is to **keep schools open** unless the absentee rate makes education ineffective. This is the same guidance for flu season every year. In addition the CDC and DSHS further advise

*“Based on the experience and knowledge gained in jurisdictions that had large outbreaks in spring 2009, the potential benefits of preemptively dismissing students from school are often outweighed by negative consequences, including students being left home alone, health workers missing shifts when they must stay home with their children, students missing meals, and interruption of students’ education.”*

With these two pieces of guidance in place the WISD administration will carefully consider any need for school dismissal.