

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As you may know, flu can be easily spread from person to person. Therefore, we are taking steps to reduce the spread of flu in Keller ISD. We want to keep the schools open to students and functioning in a normal manner during this flu season. ***But, we need your help to do this.***

We are working closely with the Tarrant County Public Health Dept to monitor flu conditions and make decisions about the best steps to take concerning our schools.

For now, under conditions with similar severity as in spring 2009, KISD will follow these procedures.

- Students and staff with a temperature of 100 degrees or greater should stay home for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever, or signs of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medication. They should stay home even if they are using antiviral medications. Students with a temperature of 100 degrees or greater will be sent home.
- Personal protective equipment, such as masks, will be available and worn by school nurses and other staff when caring for students with flu-like illness.
- The following prevention measures will be encouraged: frequent hand-washing, covering nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing, or if a tissue is not available, coughing/sneezing into your shirt-sleeve or elbow.
- Routinely cleaning all touch surfaces and buses.

If the flu becomes more severe, we may take additional steps to prevent the spread such as:

- making changes to increase the space between students such as moving desks farther apart and postponing class trips,
- dismissing students from school for at least 7 days if they become sick with flu-like symptoms, and
- recommending that students who have an ill household member stay home for five days from the day the first household member got sick. This is the time period they are most likely to get sick themselves.

Here are a few things you can do to help.

- Don't send your child to school if he/she is sick.
- Teach your children to wash their hands with soap and water.
- Plan for childcare at home if your child gets sick or if the school is dismissed.

- Plan to monitor the health of the sick child and any other children by checking for fever and other symptoms of flu. Symptoms include fever (100 degrees or greater), cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headaches, and feeling very tired. Some people may also vomit or have diarrhea.
- Update your emergency contact information at school.
- Identify a separate room in the house for care of sick family members.
- Consider getting your family vaccinated for seasonal flu and 2009 H1N1 vaccine when available.

For further information, visit www.flu.gov or www.cdc.gov. For updates regarding Keller ISD's response to H1N1, visit our website at www.kellerisd.net. We will notify you of any additional changes to our school's strategy to prevent the spread of flu.

As always, your child's health and well-being are our first priority.

Sincerely,