

## H1N1 FLU CONFIRMED IN TAYLOR SCHOOLS

September 1, 2009

With the beginning of the 2009-2010 school year, Taylor ISD officials are alerting parents that the district has been notified of two confirmed cases of the H1N1 flu and we are asking for your help to curb the spread of this virus.

As you know, all flu viruses spread easily from person to person and school-age children are among the groups most affected. We are currently taking steps to prevent the spread of the virus within our schools, but we need your help. At the request of state and federal health agencies, we want to keep all schools open and functioning as long as possible.

Taylor ISD Lead Nurse Sally Naivar has confirmed ordering 4,500 doses of the H1N1 flu vaccine for all students and staff. She expects delivery of the vaccine in October and wants all parents to watch the Taylor ISD website or local news for more notices from school nurses.

Taylor ISD is working closely with the Williamson County and Cities Health Department and the Texas Education Agency to both monitor the flu conditions and make decisions about the best steps to take.

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

- Conducting active fever and flu symptom screening of students and staff as they arrive at school;
- Making changes to increase the space between people such as moving desks farther apart and postponing class fieldtrips; and
- Excluding a sick student from school for at least 5 days.

For now, we are doing everything we can to keep our school functioning as usual. Here are a few things you can do to help:

- **Teach / ask your children to wash their hands** often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub. You can help set a good example at home by doing it yourself.
- **Teach / ask your children not to share personal items** like drinks, food, unwashed utensils and to cover their coughs and sneezes with tissues. When tissues are not available, please explain they should use their elbows, arm or sleeve .. instead of their hands .. to cover coughs and sneezes.
- **Know the signs and symptoms of the flu.** Symptoms include fever (100 degrees F or greater), cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and feeling tired. Some people may also vomit or have diarrhea.
- **Keep sick children at home** for at least 24 hours after they no longer have fever or do not have signs of fever without having to use fever-reducing medications. Keeping children with a fever at home will reduce the number of people that will get infected.
- **Do not send children to school if they are sick** or you think there may be a problem. Any child determined to be sick while at school, will be sent home.

For more information, please contact your school nurse or visit [www.flu.gov](http://www.flu.gov) or call 1-800-CDC-INFO for the most current information.

*Taylor Superintendent Dr. Bruce Scott*

