

Jefferson County Schools

H1N1 Plan

September 18, 2009

There has been much addressed in the media concerning predictions of an H1N1 flu outbreak this fall. Only the CDC can make a determination if a virus is the H1N1 and they are not examining samples at this time. A doctor can determine if a virus is a Type A flu or Type B flu infection. The H1N1 or Swine Flu virus is in the Type A flu strand, but there are other flu viruses that also fall into this category. We are working to establish a plan to address both proactive and reactive measures.

One way our parents and community can help is to prevent the spread of rumors about outbreaks and work with the schools as indicated below.

- **Authority responsible for declaring a school district public health emergency at state and local levels:** TN Department of Education
- **Local authorities responsible for executing the district operational plan:** Rhonda Campbell, Jefferson County Health Department; Amy Orr, Jefferson County School District Nurse; Connie Campbell, Director of Schools; Mandy Schneitman, Student Support Services

STAY HOME WHEN SICK

CDC recommends that individuals with influenza-like illness remain at home until at least 24 hours after they are free of fever (100° F [37.8° C] or greater), or signs of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medications.

- Students/staff with fever of 100.3 should stay home for 24 hours after fever has gone. If fever continues seek medical attention.
- Students/staff with fever of 100.3 should be sent home from school.

NEED: Parents are urged to update emergency phone numbers! Schools should have at least 3 active phone numbers for each child.

HAND HYGIENE

CDC recommends that students and staff be encouraged to wash their hands often with soap and water, especially after coughing or sneezing. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective at killing flu germs.

- Students should wash hands or use alcohol-based cleaner each time upon leaving the classroom. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are not as effective as washing hands, but could be used when hand washing is not available.
- Hygiene instruction, including hand washing, will be provided in health or physical education classrooms. The Red Cross can also offer instruction for grades K-5 which could take place during physical education class periods.

NEED: Parents are asked to help provide alcohol-based hand cleaners for classrooms if possible.

NEED: All teachers must help monitor student hand washing or use of alcohol-based cleaners.

RESPIRATORY ETIQUETTE

CDC recommends covering the nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing and throwing the tissue in the trash after use. Wash hands promptly after coughing or sneezing. If a tissue is not immediately available, coughing or sneezing into one's arm or sleeve (not into one's hand) is recommended.

ROUTINE CLEANING

Schools should regularly clean all areas and items that are more likely to have frequent hand contact.

NEED: Parents are asked to help provide disinfectants if possible.

NEED: Teachers are asked to use disinfectant to clean desks daily.

NEED: Schools are asked to use disinfectant to clean doorknobs, keyboards, tables and countertops. Toys may be sprayed with a disinfectant.

VACCINATION

A vaccine for 2009 H1N1 flu will become available in fall 2009. For very young children, at least, protective immunity will require 2 doses of vaccine, separated by at least 3 weeks). ***The local health department will offer the vaccine at no cost.***

School dismissals -reactive and preemptive: School officials will work closely and directly with the local and state public health officials and the Tennessee Department of Education to make sound decisions, based on local conditions, and to implement strategies in a coordinated manner.