

How School Families Can Prepare

With the school season in full swing, many parents are wondering how to prepare for more outbreaks. When the swine flu pandemic began, schools around the country, from Texas to Massachusetts, closed when cases were reported locally. The CDC recommends that schools do not close for cases of swine flu "unless there is a magnitude of faculty or student absenteeism that interferes with the school's ability to function." We have hand sanitizers and are making every effort to encourage good hygiene. In addition, the CDC has recommended specific action items for schools.

- Students, faculty or staff with influenza-like illness (fever with a cough or sore throat) should stay home and not attend school until fever free without medication for 24 hours
- Students, faculty and staff who appear to have an influenza-like illness at arrival to school will be sent home.
- Aspirin or aspirin-containing products should not be administered to any confirmed or suspected ill case of novel H1N1 influenza virus infection aged 18 years old and younger due to the risk of Reye syndrome.
- Parents and guardians should monitor their school-aged children, and faculty and staff should self-monitor every morning for symptoms of influenza-like illness.
- The Middle School will continue to help serve as a focus for educational activities aimed at promoting ways to reduce the spread of influenza, including hand hygiene and cough etiquette.