

September 30, 2009

Dear Parents,

As you are aware, if you have kept up with the news, the H1N1 influenza is in Texas schools. Since our last letter, sent on September 1, there has been an increase in influenza-like activity in our schools. We want to keep our schools open to students and functioning in a normal manner during this flu season.

Our district is working closely with the Texas Education Agency, The State Department of Health, and the San Patricio County Department of Public Health to monitor flu conditions and make decisions about the best steps to take concerning schools. We will keep you updated with new information as it becomes available.

For now, we are striving to keep our schools functioning as usual. Here are some things you can do to help us.

- Remind your children to wash their hands often with soap and water or an alcohol –based hand rub. You can set a good example by doing this yourself.
- Remind your children not to share personal items such as food, drinks or utensils.
- Remind your children not to touch the T-Zone: Eyes, Nose and Mouth
- Remind your children not to cough or sneeze into their hands.
- Please keep your child home if he or she has flu-like illness and consult your doctor –fever of 100 degrees F or higher, sore throat or cough. Other symptoms may be runny or stuffy nose, headache, body aches, chills, or a feeling of extreme tiredness.
- Please take advantage of the seasonal flu and H1N1 vaccinations we will offer when they become available this month.

For more information, refer to the district website at www.apisd.org, call 1-800-CDC-INFO, or the San Patricio County Department of Health at 361-364-6208 for the most up-to-date information in our county.

As conditions warrant, we will notify you of any additional changes to our school's strategy to prevent the spread of flu.

Sincerely,

Dr. Sue Thomas, Superintendent