

Dear Parent,

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state and local public health officials are investigating swine influenza cases in people in several U.S. states, including Texas. Katy ISD is currently monitoring these developments. While there is no immediate known threat in Katy ISD, the district has activated its incident management team and is working closely with state, Harris County and Fort Bend County public health officials. The team is in contact with these officials on a daily basis to ensure we have the most accurate and current information on which to make decisions.

Consistent with the district's infection control program school nurses are monitoring student illness and teachers are stressing the importance of good hygiene practices such as hand washing and covering coughs and sneezes.

Parents can help by reinforcing these good hygiene practices with children at home. The CDC recommends the following steps in order to slow down the spread of influenza:

- Students who are ill should stay home. Students have to be free of fever for at least 24 hours before they return to school.
- Avoid close contact
- Cover your cough or sneeze
- Wash your hands
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth
- Stay healthy, get rest, and drink plenty of water

Additionally, parents can also help the district monitor the situation by keeping the school informed if your child misses school because of an illness. Thank you for helping prevent the spread of influenza.

Katy ISD will continue to keep parents informed of developments and the district's efforts to keep students healthy and safe at school. Additional health information is available from the Texas State Department of Health Services Web site at [www.dshs.state.tx.us/swineflu](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/swineflu) or at the call center at 1-888-777-5320.