

FAITH ACADEMY

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SECONDARY CAMPUS

Airport Campus
539 Waco Circle

Dr. Chris Royael
Superintendent
Principal

Mr. Les Bouldin
Assistant Principal
Academic Advisor

Mr. Matt McLeod
Athletic Director

Mrs. Hope Grobe
Administrative Assistant

BUS 361-572-4568
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ELEMENTARY CAMPUS

Mockingbird Campus
2002 Mockingbird Lane

Mr. Larry Long
Principal

Mrs. Donna Potts
Media Specialist

Mrs. Veronica Gomez
Administrative Assistant

Mrs. Amy Royael
Curriculum Director

Mrs. Helen Boepple
Financial Secretary

Ms. Teresa Benitez
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September 2, 2009

Swine Flu Information

Dear Parent,

Beginning in April 2009, the State of Texas began responding to the outbreak of the H1N1 virus, known to most as "Swine Flu." When this strand was introduced there was limited knowledge of the severity which prompted the Department of State Health Services to recommend school closures in those areas believed to be affected by H1N1. *With new information and research it is evident that this flu strand contains moderate symptoms that resemble those in seasonal flu and school closures will no longer serve as the preferred method of limiting transmission.*

AT THIS TIME, FAITH ACADEMY DOES NOT HAVE ANY KNOWN CASES OF H1N1. Both campuses are continuously monitoring student and staff illnesses and are stressing the importance of good hygiene practices such as hand washing and covering coughs and sneezes.

Regardless of what the flu strain is, the treatment is largely the same: rest, drink plenty of fluids, and take fever reducing medications on advice of a physician. There are medications that can reduce the duration of symptoms, but there is currently no cure for any flu virus. Anyone with underlying health concerns should seek the advice of a medical professional. Although the H1N1 virus is fairly widespread in certain areas, the strain does not appear to be any more serious than the seasonal flu strains we see each year.

There are several practical things we can do to promote the health and well-being of our students and minimize the spread of the flu. Because we know some students and staff will develop flu-like symptoms, we have plans in place that are designed to limit the spread of the virus. We need your help to put these plans into action.

First, remind your children of the need to wash their hands often with soap or use hand sanitizers. Children need to put the soap on their hands and continuously move their hands for at least 20 seconds before rinsing. Some parents and teachers find that with very young children it helps for the child to mentally sing the "Happy Birthday" song two times to get an idea of how long 20 seconds lasts. Hand sanitizers are a wonderful source for interim hand disinfection but do not take the place of traditional soap and water washing. Urge your children to wash their hands periodically, especially after using the restroom and/or before eating.

Second, teach your child the proper way to cough and sneeze to minimize exposure to germs. Children should never cough or sneeze on anyone. Rather than coughing or sneezing into the hand, the child should direct the cough or sneeze into the elbow area. This is probably different than many of you learned as children, but it limits germs on the hands which can then be spread to others through

touching. We urge you to practice these measures in your own home both to set a good example for your children and to help limit the possibility of your becoming ill.

Third, in the event that your child does become ill, please do not send the child to school. Any child with a fever of 100.4 degrees or above will be sent home. Please keep the child at home until 24 hours have passed with no fever. This is 24 hours of no fever and not having to give the child fever reducing medications. We have the same restrictions in place for all Faith Academy personnel.

Fourth, make certain your child follows personal sanitation measures, eats healthy foods and gets plenty of rest. If your child does become ill, keep the child at home until symptoms pass. Do not mistake all illnesses for the flu. An upset stomach is not always the flu. Sometimes a runny nose is an allergy or a cold, not H1N1. There is no cause for over-reaction.

Fortunately, the current strain of H1N1 is largely mild. As vaccinations become available, we will see fewer and fewer cases. With proper preventative measures we can minimize the impact of the H1N1.

Additional health information is available from the Texas State Department of Health Services Web site at www.dshs.state.tx.us/swineflu or through the Centers for Disease Control website at <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>. Additionally, a Swine Flu Hotline is available at (888) 777-5320.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your respective principal. We pray the Lord's protecting and covering over you and your loved ones.

Educating for eternity,

Dr. Chris Royael
Mr. Larry Long