



George West Independent School District

2005-2006 Recognized District

2001-2002 Recognized District

2000-2001 Recognized District

TY SPARKS

Superintendent

ROBIN SELLMAN

Director of Educational Services

April 29, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As I am sure you are aware by now, the media has produced multiple stories about the "swine flu" in recent days. I wanted to reassure each of you that we are taking all the necessary precautionary measures to ensure the health of our students and staff. We have also been in daily contact with state and local officials this week to ensure we have the latest and most accurate information.

Most news stories are carrying the same message, and that is to practice good hygiene and reduce the spreading of germs by taking common sense precautions. Health experts recommend the following:

- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a disposable tissue or by sneezing into your elbow or shoulder rather than your hand.
- Wash hands frequently; Antibacterial hand gels may be used if soap and water are not readily available.
- Teach children to avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth.
- Stay home if you are sick; keep children home from school if they are ill.
- Clean your home surfaces often during this time (doorknobs, remote controls, refrigerator handles, etc.).
- Avoid close contact with others who are ill.
- Avoid unnecessary crowds.

As a district, we are working hard each day to keep commonly touched surface areas such as door handles, etc. clean and remind students about good hygiene practices. We are also monitoring each of our students and staff members to identify anyone that may have flu-like symptoms. Symptoms of this flu are sudden fever greater than 100°, cough, sore throat, and lethargy. Other symptoms include aches, pains, weakness, and nausea or diarrhea.

Students exhibiting these symptoms should be kept at home until symptoms are gone. If you have further questions about your child's health, please contact your physician. If you have questions about school procedures, please call your campus principal or school nurse.

We will continue to monitor this situation. Thank you for doing your part to keep your children safe and healthy.

Sincerely,

Ty Sparks
Superintendent
George West ISD