

MEMO

TO: Parents of Blue Ridge ISD students

RE: H1N1 Flu and Seasonal Flu

DATE: October 16, 2009

As of the above date Blue Ridge ISD does not have a confirmed case of the H1N1 Flu as indicated on Physician's written notes to the school that would be based on lab results. We have students at each school that have flu-like symptoms as indicated on the received Doctor's notes. Blue Ridge ISD's absentee percentage for students with flu-like symptoms is 3.2%. This low percentage as compared to our surrounding school districts is due to our aggressive cleaning/disinfecting program that we began when we had our first suspected H1N1 flu report and the precautions that parents are taking at home. We need to continue working together in order to reduce the spread of H1N1 Flu and Seasonal Flu. This cleaning/disinfecting program will continue the remainder of the school year as a precautionary measure to reduce the chance of a child becoming ill with the flu.

We would like our children to remain healthy and present each school day. We intend to continue to provide a safe, clean environment. It is not reasonable to expect the prevention of influenza or the flu in any situation. Although the flu or influenza is an illness that occurs annually, the difference this year is the addition of the H1N1 Flu that is a nationwide and statewide health concern. We will continue to take precautions to reduce the spread of this illness at school such as cleaning/disinfecting multiple times each day along with tracking each student/employee absence and each student/employee return to school. An Administrative plan is in place to track, monitor, and make a sound decision regarding school opening/closing based on absences that are related to the flu.

I encourage parents to gather all of the information regarding the H1N1 Flu and Seasonal Flu as possible in order to care for your child. We have information on our website regarding BRISD procedures for Suspected H1N1 Flu and Confirmed H1N1 Flu. We also have links to the Texas Department of Health Flu information and from the Center for Disease Control ***Seasonal and 2009 H1N1 Flu: A Guide for Parents.***

Thank you for entrusting your child with our school district for their education and well-being. I will communicate confirmed H1N1 Flu via a letter and on our School Reach phone communication system. I will also communicate school closing (if necessary) in the same manner. BRISD will continue to communicate with you in a timely, appropriate manner.

Thank you for working with the school district during this serious health concern.

Todd Lintzen, Blue Ridge Tiger

Superintendent