



September 4, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The expected flu "season" has arrived in Van Vleck. It is unusual to see flu cases so early in the school year. Within these first two weeks of school, we have received information indicating suspected or reported cases of **Type A influenza** in at least one of our schools. All of the ill students are being treated at home or have fully recuperated. As you probably know, there are different classifications of the flu. The H1N1 (swine) flu is considered a Type A flu; however, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) is not recommending testing to identify this specific strain of the flu. Because the CDC is anticipating these viruses will be widespread, we want you to know the following:

What preventative measures Van Vleck is taking

- We emphasize the healthy practices of washing hands and covering coughs.
- We continue to clean and disinfect our classrooms and buildings with a special emphasis on high-touch surfaces (doorknobs, desktops, light switches, water fountains, etc.)
- Our school nurses monitor student health throughout the day.
- We follow the recommendations of the CDC and the Matagorda County Department of Health. The CDC is not recommending the closing of schools due to confirmed or suspected cases of influenza A or H1N1.

What you can do to protect your family

- Emphasize and practice good hand washing at home. Remind family members to cover their mouths when they cough. Do not share drinking or eating utensils.
- We encourage you to get your family members vaccinated as soon as possible against seasonal flu. This will offer protection against at least three flu viruses expected to circulate in our community this year. In addition, a vaccine for H1N1 flu is expected to be available later this fall. Plans to offer this vaccine are still being finalized by the Matagorda County Department of Health, and our community will be notified when and where the vaccinations will be available.
- Sick students should stay home if they have flu-like symptoms, and not return to school until they have been fever-free for 24 hours (without the aid of fever reducing medication). Flu-like symptoms include fever with a cough or sore throat. Please notify the school office if your child exhibits these symptoms and indicate if he or she has been diagnosed with the flu.

How you can be informed of further developments

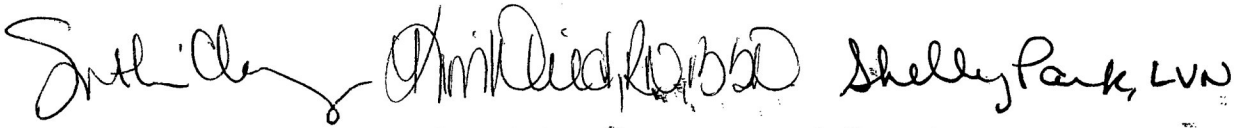
- The Van Vleck ISD website is a primary source of information about the flu virus. Please visit www.vvisd.org for updates.
- Because we anticipate new cases of the flu being diagnosed and confirmed on an ongoing basis, we will **NOT** be sending a parent notification each time we learn of a new case. At this point, you can assume the flu virus is in your school community.
- If the number of cases should require changes in a school's schedule or daily operations, we will notify parents via the website and letters sent home with students.

A special e-mail account has been set up for questions about the flu. You can e-mail your questions to: askthenurse@vvisd.org.

For more information on the H1N1 flu, please visit the CDC website using the link on our homepage at www.vvisd.org.

We realize this may be a difficult and extended flu season; therefore, we will continue to stay focused on the prevention and management of this illness.

Sincerely,



Cynthia Clary, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Kim Wied, RN, BSN
District Nurse, VVISED

Shelly Park, LVN
School Nurse, OHHMS