

H1N1 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Fort Bend ISD is working closely with the Fort Bend County Health Department and the Center for Disease Control (CDC) regarding recommendations they provide related to the H1N1 flu virus. Parents and staff are advised to refer to the FBISD district website for current information and helpful links that provide information related to H1N1.

The following are some of the most frequently asked questions about H1N1. If you have a question that has not been addressed, please e-mail it to: askFBISD@fortbendisd.com

1. What preventive measures are being taken by Fort Bend ISD to prevent the spread of H1N1 among students? As was the district's practice last spring when H1N1 first appeared, our school nurses will be monitoring student illness daily, especially those students with flu-like symptoms. Campus teachers and other staff will continually remind students about the importance of hand washing and covering coughs and sneezes. Campus custodial and cafeteria staff will adhere to specified cleaning protocols, and school bus hand rails will be wiped with disinfectant at the end of the last bus run each day. Staff members are also being asked to follow the same recommendations for students regarding hand washing and covering coughs and sneezes.

2. How long should my child stay out of school should he or she exhibit flu-like symptoms? Students with flu like symptoms (fever with cough or sore throat) should not attend school for at least 24 hours after the fever is gone. Fever should be gone without the use of fever reducing medicine.

3. What are the symptoms of the H1N1 flu? The symptoms of the H1N1 flu are similar to the symptoms of seasonal influenza and include fever, lethargy (no energy), a lack of appetite and coughing. Some people also may have a runny nose, sore throat, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. A doctor can determine if a person actually has the H1N1 flu.

4. Should the sibling of a child exhibiting flu-like symptoms stay home? At this time, Health Department officials are not recommending that siblings of sick students remain at home unless they too are exhibiting flu-like symptoms.

5. Will Fort Bend ISD close schools should a case of H1N1 be confirmed at a campus? The CDC is not advising school closure for a suspected or confirmed case of novel A (H1N1) and, in general, is not advising this unless there is a large percentage of faculty or student absenteeism that interferes with the school's ability to function.

6. How will the district handle exemptions for secondary students who may have been out due to the flu? The exemption policy has been reviewed and the district will take into account any lost days due to being ill with H1N1. While it is important to be in class, we encourage parents and students to put health issues before attendance and to stay home when sick.