

WASHINGTON PARISH SCHOOL SYSTEM

P.O. BOX 587
FRANKLINTON, LOUISIANA 70438
(985) 839-3436 FAX # (985) 839-5464

August 28, 2009

Dear Parent,

As you may know, flu can be spread from person to person. Therefore, we are taking steps to reduce the spread of flu in the Washington Parish School System. We want to keep the schools open to students and functioning in a normal manner during this flu season. ***But, we need your help to do this.***

We are working closely with the *Louisiana Department of Education* and the *Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals* to monitor flu conditions and make decisions about the best steps to take concerning schools. We will keep you updated with new information as it becomes available.

For now we are doing everything we can to keep our schools functioning as usual. **Here are a few things that you can do to help.**

- ***Teach your children to wash their hands often*** with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub. You can set a good example by doing this yourself.
- ***Teach your children not to share personal items*** like drinks, food or unwashed utensils, and to cover their coughs and sneezes with tissues. When a tissue is unavailable, they should cover up their coughs or sneezes using the elbow, arm or sleeve instead of the hand.
- ***Know the signs and symptoms of the flu.*** Symptoms of the flu include fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit, 37.8 degrees Celsius or greater), cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache, and feeling very tired. Some people may also vomit or have diarrhea.
- ***Keep sick children at home*** for at least 24 hours after they no longer have fever or do not have signs of fever, without using fever-reducing drugs. Keeping children with a fever at home will reduce the number of people who may get infected. If you keep your children home, be sure to *refer to the Washington Parish School System's Code of Conduct, page 3, for attendance procedures.*
- ***Do not send children to school if they are sick.*** Any children who are determined to be sick while at school will be sent home.

For more information, visit www.flu.gov, or call 1-800-CDC-INFO for the most current information about the flu. For more information about flu in our community and what the schools in Washington Parish are doing, visit www.wpss.org or call 839-3436. We will notify you of any additional changes to our district's strategy to prevent the spread of flu.

Sincerely,



Darrell Fairburn
Superintendent