



April 28, 2009

Dear Parents,

This note is to inform you that as of today, the Franklin Health Department has confirmed that there are no known cases of the swine influenza A in the Franklin community. We are working proactively to educate parents and students about the threats of the disease that you have heard about recently in the news.

This swine influenza A virus is a new virus that has not been identified previously in people, and viral person-to-person transmission appears to be occurring. Swine flu is thought to be spread via person-to-person contact through contaminated air droplets (i.e. coughing and sneezing) from an infected person. The virus is not spread by food including pork or pork products.

The symptoms of human swine flu are similar to the regular seasonal influenza and include fever, lethargy, lack of appetite and coughing. Some people with swine flu have reported additional symptoms such as runny nose, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea. In some situations, the virus can develop into pneumonia. It is believed that the seasonal influenza vaccine does not provide protection against swine flu.

School personnel and students should consider the following prevention measures:

- Cover all coughs and sneezes
- Wash hands frequently - especially after coughing, sneezing, and blowing one's nose
- Avoid touching of nose, mouth, and eyes
- Properly dispose of all contaminated tissues

Try to avoid close contact with sick people:

- Influenza is thought to spread mainly person-to-person through coughing or sneezing of infected people.
- If you get sick, CDC recommends that you stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.

The Franklin School District has a pandemic plan in place to utilize in the instance of an outbreak; however, at this current time there are no reported cases. To ensure that we are creating a safe environment we are monitoring attendance records and communicating regularly with the Franklin Health Department. Please work with your child to ensure that they are following the above procedures in order to better protect their health.

Please, report any suspected case to your school office and your local Health Department. Attached is the Disease Fact Sheet for your reference, or you can visit <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/keyfacts.htm>. Please, call Isa Chase, RN CPNP at 414-529-8220 if you have any questions.