

Frequently Asked Questions

Will the district close campuses? We currently receive guidance from our local health department regarding any decisions to close campuses. Under the new CDC guidelines, schools are encouraged to remain operational unless the levels of absenteeism are too high for the campus to effectively remain open. There is no baseline recommendation for closures. Nationally, closures remain very low. Our current levels of absenteeism are similar to seasonal flu outbreaks, but we are continuing to monitor as this could change. Let your school know if your child is out with the flu, we are tracking trends and reporting this information to those that are tracking this illness.

Will the district be administering vaccines once they are available? C-OCISD is not a medical facility and we do not order vaccines. However, we recognize that we are an important part of the community and will work with the local health department to assist them in any way. It is our plan to offer a community H1N1 vaccine clinic when the vaccines are available through the health department. This will be a FREE CLINIC!

My child has the flu and it is likely H1N1. How long should we keep our child home? It is recommended that students who have the flu remain home for at least 24 hours after there is no longer a fever without the use of fever medication. **Please do not send your child to school sick. If they are out with the flu, make sure your note states they were out with flu. We will take this into consideration when we review your child's absences.**

Will the district cancel public events, gatherings, field trips, and contests in response to the flu epidemic as you did last spring? This is an option that will be considered should we see a significant increase in absences. Currently, although there is an increase in absenteeism, we continue to monitor rates of absenteeism.

What steps are you taking to prevent the spread of the flu? We continue to frequently clean commonly touched surfaces such as door handles, table surfaces, and faucets. Our best resource for prevention is the use of good hygiene and isolation of those that are sick. Students with fever and flu-like illness will be segregated to the extent allowable and be masked until they have exited the school community. **If you are called to pick up a sick child, please do so promptly.**

My child has medical complications and we are worried about how he will handle the flu should he contract it. Should we keep him home? The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that parents identify children who are at higher risk of serious disease from the flu and talk to your healthcare provider about a plan to protect them during the flu season. Children at high risk of serious disease from the flu include: children under 5 years of age and those children with chronic medical conditions, such as asthma and diabetes. Ultimately, the decision to keep your child home is yours. We recommend you contact your campus principal or nurse to get more information.