



FAYETTE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

LaFayette Educational Center
205 LaFayette Avenue
FAYETTEVILLE, GEORGIA 30214
(770) 460-3990
(770) 460-3928 FAX
www.fcboe.org

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Dr. John D. DeCotis, Ed D
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August 17, 2009

Dear Parent or Guardian:

As you may know flu is spreading easily from person to person and school-age children are among the groups most affected. We are taking steps to prevent the spread of flu in our school system. We want to keep the schools open to students and functioning in a normal manner. **We need your help to do this.**

We are working closely with the Fayette County Health Department to monitor flu conditions in our community and make decisions about the best steps to take. **At all our Fayette County Schools we have implemented the following steps to prevent the spread of flu within our school.**

- Educate and encourage students to cover their mouth and nose when they cough or sneeze.
- Remind students to practice good hand washing.
- Continually assess students in the classroom and send them to the clinic for evaluation if they have flu symptoms.
- Clean surfaces and items in the classroom daily with approved disinfectant.
- Conduct active fever and symptom screenings of students and staff upon arrival at school if indicated.
- Separate sick students from healthy students in the clinic.
- Make changes to increase the space between people such as moving desks farther apart, teachers rotating between classrooms while keeping the same group of students in one classroom, if indicated.

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

- **Teach your children to wash their hands** often with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub.
- **Teach your children not to share personal items** like drinks, food and utensils, and to cover their coughs and sneezes with tissues or use their sleeve when a tissue is unavailable.
- **Know the signs and symptoms of the flu.** Symptoms of the flu include a fever (100 degrees Fahrenheit, 37.8 degrees Celsius or greater), cough, sore throat, a runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headache and feeling tired. Some people may also vomit or have diarrhea. If one household member has flu symptoms, the rest of the family is more likely to develop symptoms.
- **Keep sick children at home** for at least 24 hours AFTER they no longer have a fever or do not have signs of fever, WITHOUT using fever-reducing drugs.
- **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. If your child becomes sick or you have concerns, please call your healthcare provider.

Sincerely,

Debbie King, RN
School Health Services Coordinator