

Saint Francis of Assisi School

May 8, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians:

As you probably know, an outbreak of swine flu has caused concern across the United States. Although we do not have any known cases in our area, this is a good time to review tips for preventing the spread of illness in our schools—including colds, sore throats, “bugs” of all kinds, viruses, and flu (including swine flu if it crops up here).

You already know what regular flu looks like. According to the *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*, the symptoms of swine flu are very similar: fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills, and fatigue. Some people have reported diarrhea and vomiting. If your child becomes ill with symptoms like this, please contact your family doctor.

While there is currently no vaccine to protect humans against swine flu, there is plenty that can be done to protect against it. Such measures include:

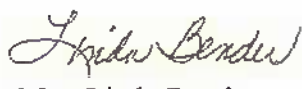
- covering your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze.
- washing your hands often with soap and water.
- avoiding touching your eyes, nose, or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- avoiding close contact with those who are ill.
- when you are sick, staying home from work or school and limiting contact with others.
- being specific about symptoms when calling school to report your child is sick

Our school staff, along with the Manitowoc County Health Department, are staying informed and monitoring the swine flu situation. At this time there is no local impact. We have been advised that there are no precautions or actions that need to be taken by schools at this point, other than reminding students of the good health practices listed above.

You can be assured that the health and well-being of our students is our top priority and we are doing everything possible to keep abreast of flu developments. We will post any new developments on the school website at www.sfaschool.net. Please feel free to contact the school office if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,


Mr. James Clark
Middle School Principal


Mrs. Linda Bender
Elementary School Principal

Official sources for swine flu information: www.cdc.gov/swineflu and www.pandemic.wi.gov

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