

April 30, 2009

Dear Parents:

In response to the swine flu virus we at Trident Academy are taking measures to minimize the potential spread of this influenza.

- We are encouraging the following preventive measures among our students and staff:
 - * coughing and sneezing into tissues or sleeves
 - * throwing away used tissues promptly
- Parents are not to send their child to school if the child has flu-like symptoms. We also suggest that the parents contact their child's physician and get clearance from the doctor prior to the child's return to school.
- We are closely monitoring our students for symptoms of the flu. We will ask parents to come pick up their child if such symptoms occur.
- We are encouraging our students to wash their hands during the course of the school day.
- We have our Day Porter periodically each day sanitize the water fountains, phones, bathrooms, door knobs, tables in the lunch room, etc. Our cleaning crew does a thorough cleaning of the school each evening. We also have our teachers periodically during the day wipe the tables and common use areas in their classrooms.
- We are in touch with the flu department at DHEC and are implementing their suggestions to provide either :
 - * 1) hand sanitizers (not toxic unless drunk from the bottle), making sure that kids rub it in their hands really well
 - *2) surface sanitizing wipes – as long as it over 60% alcohol content. We will have hand sanitizers and/or surface wipes available in our classrooms for cleaning.
- We will close school for a time period recommended by the health authorities, if one of our students or faculty should contract the swine flu. If school needs to close, we will provide class assignments via e-mail.

We are taking these measures in order to continue to make Trident Academy a safe and healthy place for our students. You are a wonderfully cooperative parent body, and I thank you for your support as we move forward. Of course, if you have any questions, give me a call.

Sincerely,

Joe Ferber

Headmaster

The following information was obtained from the Charleston County School District website and is provided for your information.

What is the Swine Flu, and What is Being Done on a National Level?

Swine Influenza (swine flu) is a respiratory disease of pigs caused by type A influenza viruses that causes regular outbreaks in pigs. People do not normally get swine flu, but human infections can and do happen. Swine flu viruses have been reported to spread from person-to-person, but in the past, this transmission was limited and not sustained beyond three people.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), human cases of swine influenza A (H1N1) virus infection have been identified in the United States and internationally. Investigations are ongoing to determine the source of the infection and whether additional people have been infected with swine influenza viruses.

The CDC is working very closely with officials in states where human cases of swine influenza A have been identified, as well as with health officials in Mexico, Canada and the World Health Organization. CDC has activated its Emergency Operations Center to coordinate this investigation.

What are the Signs of Swine Flu in People?

The symptoms of swine flu in people are similar to the symptoms of regular human flu and include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue. Some people have reported diarrhea and vomiting associated with swine flu. In the past, severe illness (pneumonia and respiratory failure) and deaths have been reported with swine flu infection in people. Like seasonal flu, swine flu may cause a worsening of underlying chronic medical conditions.

How Can I Learn More About Swine Flu?

More information about the virus and an updated case count of confirmed swine flu infections in the United States can be accessed at <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/investigation.htm>