

# Comal Independent School District

Texas Department of State Health Services

Swine Flu hotline: 888-777-5320

*(The following Q & A was updated Wednesday, May 6 at noon)*

## Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Comal ISD and the Reopening of Schools

**Q:** Why is the Comal ISD reopening its schools after reporting that Monday, May 11 would be the first day back?

**A:** Things change. What health officials knew last week about this round of swine flu is different from what they know this week. Last week, health officials told us May 11 was the earliest we could expect to open. This week, based on the latest guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Texas Education Agency, the Comal ISD has decided to reopen all schools and offices earlier than scheduled. Everything will reopen on Thursday, May 7 at the regular time. That means all students and staff are expected to report to work and school on Thursday this week.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has issued new guidance for school districts in response to the H1N1 outbreak. The guidance includes a recommendation that "School closure is not advised for a suspected or confirmed case of novel influenza A (H1N1) and, in general, is not advised unless there is a magnitude of faculty or student absenteeism that interferes with the school's ability to function." The complete guidance is available at: [http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/K12\\_dismissal.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/K12_dismissal.htm)  
<http://www.ed.gov/admins/lead/safety/emergencyplan/pandemic/guidance/flu-faqs.pdf>

**Q:** Why is the Comal ISD waiting until May 7 to reopen schools?

**A:** Since the final decision to reopen schools on May 5 was made in the late afternoon, the Comal ISD wanted to give its teachers, staff, parents, and students time to prepare to return to school on May 7.

**NEW**

**Q:** My children cannot be in school on May 7 and 8 because of this sudden change in the reopening date. Will their absence be excused?

**A:** Attendance will be taken on both days. As with any other day your child is out, call the school's front office and let them know why your child is out. They have been given information on how to handle absences on these two days.

**UPDATED**

**Q:** When will missed TAKS tests be made up?

**A:** The Texas Education Agency is requiring us to finish all of the testing we were not able to complete no later than Friday, May 15. The complete schedule for TAKS makeup tests is outlined at the end of this FAQ.

**UPDATED**

**Q:** What about Advanced Placement testing that was to occur May 4-15?

**A:** The College Board has worked with us to reschedule the AP tests originally scheduled for May 4-8. The schedule for AP makeup tests is at the end of this FAQ.

**Q:** Can instructional packets still be picked up?

**A:** Instructional packets by grade level are still available for pick up by parents on Wednesday, May 6, from 10 am to 3 pm, at the following locations:

Comal ISD Support Services Building (1404 IH 35 N, New Braunfels)  
Bulverde/Spring Branch Library (131 Bulverde Crossing, Bulverde)  
CRRC Main Office (1917 FM 2673, Sattler)

**Q:** What type of cleaning was done?

**A:** We followed health department guidelines that included sanitizing all areas in Comal ISD buildings and buses.

### **UPDATED**

**Q:** Will my student have to make up the missed days?

**A:** The Texas Education Agency is telling us we will not have to make up the days, which includes not having to use Memorial Day as a make-up day.

Comal ISD still has to submit a waiver to TEA asking that it not have to make up the days.

**Q:** What about extra-curricular events, such as track and field regional meets, softball and baseball playoff games?

**A:** All UIL events have been postponed until May 11. Some events have been rescheduled. Check the UIL website below and contact your child's coach or coordinator for more information.

[http://www.uil.utexas.edu/db/press\\_release\\_detail.lasso?-Search=Action&-Table=table&-Database=press\\_releases&-KeyValue=312](http://www.uil.utexas.edu/db/press_release_detail.lasso?-Search=Action&-Table=table&-Database=press_releases&-KeyValue=312)

**Q:** Will Comal ISD employees be paid during the time period missed?

**A:** Yes. ALL Comal ISD employees will be paid. Employees remained "on call" during the entire closure period. Supervisors could call employees in at any given time. Employees were required to record non-duty days, personal days, or sick days during this time because they were "on call" and being compensated.

**Q:** What about the SAT test my child was scheduled to take at Smithson Valley High on May 2?

**A:** SVHS, in cooperation with the College Board, has tentatively scheduled the SAT makeup date for Saturday, May 16. Any student scheduled for that test will be contacted by the SAT Program and given complete instructions about makeup dates. If the student is unable to attend the scheduled makeup date, he/she may reschedule for a future SAT test date at no additional charge. To do so, the student will need to call SAT Customer Service and identify

himself/herself as having been registered to test at one of the SAT test centers that closed.

**Q:** Will there be any changes to the dates for finals?

**A:** No changes are anticipated at this time.

**Q:** What about after school day care?

**A:** After-school day care will resume on Thursday, May 7.

**Q:** Will high school graduation dates change?

**A:** No. Comal ISD high school graduations will take place as scheduled.

**Q:** I was planning on signing my child up for Dual Language classes. How will the May 1<sup>st</sup> deadline be affected? When will my student be notified if he or she was selected to the Dual Language Program?

**A:** Parents can either mail in the applications or turn in the applications on May 7. The Dual Language student-selection process will be pushed back from May 7 to a later date. Information will be updated as it becomes available.

**Q:** Will Community Education classes be made up?

**A:** Currently, the plan is for Community Education classes to be made up after May 7. We will post further information when it becomes available.

**Q:** I was scheduled for fingerprinting in the Comal ISD Human Resources office. Is it possible to still get that done?

**A:** No. Call Comal ISD on May 7 to reschedule your appointment.

## **UPDATE ON SCHOOL and DISTRICT EVENTS**

### **Comal ISD**

Maymester	May 11 @ CHS
CEF Academic Recognition Banquet	May 19
CEF Charity Golf Event	May 29

### **Canyon High**

Spring Sports Banquet	May 13
Band Banquet	May 22
Senior Awards Night	May 26

### **Canyon Lake High**

Athletic Gala	May 22
JROTC Banquet	TBD
Special Olympics Award Ceremony	TBD

### **Smithson Valley High**

Band Awards Banquet	May 16
Prom	May 23

# **Comal ISD TAKS Testing**

## **Makeup Schedule**

**Monday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

Exit Level ELA (1<sup>st</sup> administration and re-test) – **MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL ONLY**

**Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

Grade 4 Reading  
Grade 6 Reading  
Grade 7 Reading  
Exit Level Mathematics (1<sup>st</sup> administration and re-test)

Grade 3 Reading re-test  
Grade 5 Reading re-test (**and 2<sup>nd</sup> day Dyslexia Bundle**)  
Grade 8 Reading re-test (**and 2<sup>nd</sup> day Dyslexia Bundle**)

Grades 3-8 LAT Reading and Grade 10 LAT ELA – **2<sup>nd</sup> day of testing**

**Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

Grade 5 Science  
Grade 8 Science  
Grade 9 Mathematics  
Grade 10 Science  
Exit Level Science (1<sup>st</sup> administration and re-test)

**Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

LAT Grade 5 Science  
LAT Grade 8 Science  
LAT Grade 10 Science

Grade 8 Social Studies

**Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009**

Grade 5 Math re-test  
Grade 8 Math re-test

**Comal ISD  
Advanced Placement Exam  
Revised Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Morning (AM) Testing</b>	<b>Afternoon (PM) Testing</b>
May 11	Biology	Physics
May 14	Macroeconomics World History	Microeconomics
May 15	Human Geography	---
May 20	Statistics US History Government German	English (11 <sup>th</sup> ) French
May 21	Calculus AB Calculus BC	Spanish Chemistry
May 22	English Literature (12 <sup>th</sup> )	Art History

**Note: Any student who is scheduled for two exams at the same time or three exams on the same day, based on the above schedule, will be allowed an exception to test on an alternate date between May 27-29. The Campus AP Coordinator will facilitate the change in the exam schedule for these exceptions.**