

# Comal Independent School District

**Texas Department of State Health Services**

**Swine Flu hotline: 888-777-5320**

*(The following Q & A was updated Wednesday, April 29 at 4:06 p.m.*

*It will continue to be updated as further information is learned)*

## **Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Comal ISD and Swine Flu**

**Q:** Why is the Comal ISD closing all schools immediately, until May 11?

**A:** Due to concerns over the swine flu, it is the recommendation of the Comal County Health Department in conjunction with the Texas Department of State Health Services and the Center for Disease Control that Comal ISD close all of its schools beginning Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> until Monday, May 11. The New Braunfels ISD also is closing all of its schools for that time period.

**Q:** Isn't it an extreme measure to close all the schools?

**A:** Out of an abundance of caution and because our school district needs to do its part to help stop the spread of infection, we are complying with the Comal County Health Department recommendation immediately.

**Q:** Why are the schools closing for so long?

**A:** It is the recommendation of the Comal County Health Department that schools be closed for two flu incubation periods. Each incubation period is 5 days. There are three highly-probable cases of swine flu in Comal County at this time. In addition, there are 140 cases pending, according to the Comal County Health Department. At least 100 of those have been reported in the last 24 hours.

**Q:** What steps are followed when a person is tested for swine flu?

**A:** According to the Comal County Health Department, there are three levels of testing. First, a rapid test is conducted in the doctor's office to determine if the patient has Type-A or Type-B flu. Second, if it is Type-A, a viral culture is sent to the regional health department to be sub-typed. Third, if they cannot confirm what sub-type of flu it is, the sample is sent to the Center for Disease Control, where it is tested for swine flu. This process takes several days.

**Q:** Is there a possibility the schools will reopen earlier than May 11?

**A:** No. All schools in the Comal ISD and in Comal County will be closed until May 11.

**Q:** What type of cleaning is being done?

**A:** We are following health department guidelines that include disinfecting all areas in Comal ISD buildings and buses.

**Q:** Will my student have to make up the missed days? If so, when will those make-up dates take place?

**A:** School districts statewide affected by the swine flu will work with the Texas Education Agency, which will ultimately decide if the days need to be made up. We will post this information as soon as it is made available.

**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. For more information, visit

[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 this time period?

**A:** Yes. At this time ALL Comal ISD employees will be paid.

**Q:** Will my direct deposit check post the same time it usually does?

**A:** Yes. Employees who have direct deposit will not be affected and should receive their deposit on time. Substitutes who get their checks in the mail may have to wait a few extra days than normal.

**Q:** Will contractors and vendors be paid?

**A:** Checks to contractors and vendors were cut and mailed earlier this week.

**Q:** What about the TAKS tests my child was scheduled to take this week?

**A:** The Texas Education Agency will decide when students missing TAKS tests will make up the exams. We will post that information when it becomes available.

**Q:** What about Advanced Placement testing?

**A:** The College Board is working with us to reschedule. We will post that information as it becomes available.

**Q:** I have a child that is scheduled to take the SAT between now and May 11 at a Comal ISD school. Is this test still on?

**A:** No. The SAT testing has been canceled. If we can, we will reschedule the test. We will post further information when it becomes available.

**Q:** What will happen with the Smithson Valley High prom scheduled on May 9?

**A:** The Smithson Valley High prom will not be on May 9 as scheduled. It is our goal to reschedule at the first available date.

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

**A:** All after school programs, including day care, are canceled until May 11.

**Q:** I was planning on attending the Canyon Lake High Athletic Gala on Saturday, May 2.

**A:** The Canyon Lake High Athletic Gala has been postponed and will be rescheduled at a later date.

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

**A:** No, at this time 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 11. 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:** What about summer school?

**A:** All summer school questions will be addressed at [http://www.comalisd.org/Summer\\_School/Summer\\_School\\_2009.asp](http://www.comalisd.org/Summer_School/Summer_School_2009.asp)

**Q:** Will voting in Comal ISD's school board elections on May 9 be affected?

**A:** The Comal County Elections Office is handling the election and it is scheduled to take place May 9. Early voting continues through May 5. None of the voting locations are in schools.

**Q:** My child left medication at school. Is there any way to retrieve it?

**A:** In cases of extreme need only, contact your school's principal via email in the following format: [firstname.lastname@comalisd.org](mailto:firstname.lastname@comalisd.org), to receive further instructions.

**Q:** I am a teacher at a Comal ISD school. Will I be able to retrieve personal belongings from my school?

**A:** Wait to hear from your principal about when you will be allowed to retrieve personal belongings.

**Q:** What about the Comal Education Foundation charity golf event on Friday, May 1, at River Crossing Country Club?

**A:** The tournament has been postponed until Friday, May 29.

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

**A:** Currently, the plan is for Community Education classes to be made up after May 11. We will post further information when it becomes available.

**Informative links about swine flu:**

<http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/mitigation.htm>

[http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/key\\_facts.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/key_facts.htm)

[http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/swineflu\\_you.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/swineflu_you.htm)

<http://www.cdc.gov/media/transcripts/2009/t090423.htm>

<http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/region8/default.shtm>

[www.co.comal.tx.us/health.htm](http://www.co.comal.tx.us/health.htm)