

The Mississippi State Department of Health is working closely with your school to provide guidance and information to prevent the spread of flu among school children.

Parents are encouraged to keep their children home when they are sick with flu-like illness, and children should stay home until they don't have fever for 24 hours. Children who become ill while at school will be separated from others until parents can be notified and pick them up. You should encourage your children to wash their hands frequently, and cover their coughs and sneezes, since this is how flu is transmitted. The CDC does not currently recommend school closures as an effective way to prevent flu in the schools.

Parents will receive information about how to get your children vaccinated against swine flu as vaccine becomes available. Additionally, all parents are encouraged to have their children vaccinated against regular seasonal flu.

For further information, parents may call the State Department of Health's hotline at 1-877-222-9FLU (1-877-222-9358).