

Dear Parents,

Influenza is here. We are seeing both seasonal flu and H1N1 in our schools. The Davis School District's risk management team is partnering with the Davis County Health Department in monitoring absenteeism in schools.

At this time, the majority of our schools are still below 10 percent in total absences.

Following Centers for Disease Control guidelines, we are not closing any schools at this time. Closing schools during the spring outbreak did not slow the spreading of the virus. It simply changed the location of where students were being exposed to the virus.

We understand your concerns, but be assured that the situation is being monitored daily. As always, you have the right to keep your child home from school to avoid risk of exposure, but the student must make up the work missed.

You can help prevent the spread of the flu by using healthy practices in your home, including proper handwashing, coughing into a tissue or elbow if a tissue is not available, and keeping frequently touched surfaces clean.

You can also help by keeping your child at home if he or she is exhibiting flu-like symptoms such as coughing, sore throat, sneezing and/or a fever above 100 degrees. The student should be kept at home until 24 hours after the fever drops below 100 degrees without the use of fever-reducing medications.

The district also has created a website, www.davis.k12.ut.us/district/H1N1/main.html, which addresses many questions parents may have about seasonal flu and H1N1. It also contains a link to flu vaccine clinics sponsored by the Davis County Health Department.

There are two vaccination clinics taking place in the near future. The first will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 17, at the Bountiful Regional Center, 835 N. 400 East, North Salt Lake. The second will be from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 20, at the Davis Conference Center, 800 West Heritage Park Blvd., Layton, subject to vaccine availability. For more information on restrictions on those vaccines go to www.davis.k12.ut.us/district/h1n1/immunizations.html.