

Cullman County Schools

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MR. SHANE BARNETTE
SUPERINTENDENT

PARENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Schools within the Cullman County School district are experiencing a high number of student and employee absences due to the widespread flu epidemic. Cullman County Schools will be CLOSED Thursday, February 8th and Friday, February 9th. Governor Ivey has declared a State of Emergency due to the flu epidemic.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), flu viruses spread most often by droplets made when people with the flu cough, sneeze, or talk. Less often, a person may get the flu by touching something that has a flu virus on it and then touching their own mouth, eyes or nose. Our preventative efforts have included: reminding everyone to practice proper hand-washing and cough etiquette; separating sick children from others until parents are able to pick them up; clearing and disinfecting hard surfaces throughout the school day, specifically between classes and between bus routes.

Due to the flu epidemic, attendance policies will be flexible. Written parent notes will be accepted. In the best interest of students, parents, please continue to follow doctor recommendations and the procedure on not returning to school within 24 hours of being fever free. This will help to prevent the spread of this epidemic.

I understand dismissing school creates a hardship on many of our parents; however, the health and safety of our students must continue to be my number one priority. At this time, the epidemic is not only having an impact on our students but also our staff, preventing us from effectively serving our students. Given the short notice, teachers will prepare as much as possible for assignments to be completed at home.

The following has been taken from the CDC website:

In addition to getting vaccinated, you and your children can take everyday steps to help prevent the spread of germs:

- Stay away from people who are sick.
- If your child is sick with the flu illness, try to keep him or her in a separate room from others in the household, if possible.
- CDC recommends that your child stay home for at least 24 hours after his or her fever is gone, except to get medical care or for other necessities. The fever should be gone without the use of fever-reducing medicine. People with the flu may be able to infect others from 1 day before getting sick to 5 days to 7 days after.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after it has been used.
- Wash hands often with soap and water. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Clean and disinfect hard surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs. The flu virus can live and potentially infect a person for 2 to 8 hours after being deposited on a surface.

Thank you, and I appreciate your support and understanding.

Shane Barnette