

OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Thursday, April 30, 2009

Dear Parents,

As you may already know, an outbreak of swine flu has caused the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services to issue a public health emergency notice. In addition, the Alabama Department of Public Health announced yesterday the detection of two probable cases of swine flu in students in Madison County. During this time of imminent health concerns, the health and well-being of our students is of the utmost concern to us and we are doing everything possible to protect our students and limit the spread of swine flu.

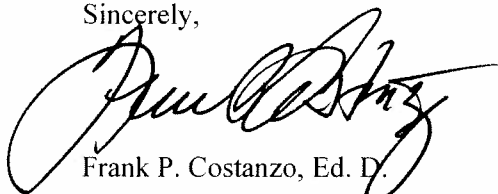
The Tuscaloosa County School System implemented a district Pandemic Flu Plan in October 2008. You can find our plan and additional information for parents on the *Health Services* section of our website at www.tcss.net. With the notification of the current situation our nurses are in constant contact with state and local health officials.

Please note that taking the following steps may reduce the spread of swine flu:

- Cover your cough or sneeze with a sleeve or tissue.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Hand sanitizer is acceptable if unable to wash your hands.
- Avoid touching your mouth, eyes and nose with your hands.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you get sick, stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to avoid infecting them. Persons experiencing severe symptoms, such as difficulty breathing, fever and profound muscle aches, should seek medical attention.

For updated information about swine flu, visit www.adph.org and www.cdc.gov or you may call the Tuscaloosa County Health Department at (205) 345-4131.

Sincerely,



Frank P. Costanzo, Ed. D.
Superintendent of Education