



Denton County Health Department
306 N Loop 288, Ste 183
Denton, TX 76209
(940) 349-2900

Dear Parent or Guardian,

As fall and winter approach, more cases of the flu are expected in our community. The flu is a viral infection caused by the influenza virus. Please note the following information regarding influenza:

- The flu is spread through respiratory droplets produced when someone sneezes or coughs as well as contact with a surface or object contaminated with the virus followed by touching the nose or mouth.
- Typical symptoms of the flu include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, chills and fatigue, and typically last 4 to 7 days.

What should you do if your child becomes ill?

- If your child becomes ill, please keep him/her out of school until they have been fever free for at least 24 hours without fever reducing medication.
- Children with certain health conditions may face special medical challenges during flu season. Contact your healthcare provider to discuss medication options to prevent illness or lessen the severity of symptoms. Medication against the virus is most effective if given within 2 days of feeling ill.
- If your child displays any of the following symptoms, please seek emergency care:
 - Fast breathing or trouble breathing
 - Bluish or gray skin color
 - Not drinking enough fluids
 - Severe or persistent vomiting
 - Not waking up or not interacting
 - Being so irritable that the young child does not want to be held
 - Flu-like symptoms improve but then return with fever and worse cough

There are ways to prevent the spread of flu:

- Get vaccinated against seasonal and H1N1 flu.
- Wash hands often, especially after covering a cough or sneeze.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with the sleeve of your shirt or a tissue.
- If you feel ill, stay home from work and keep sick kids home from school.

Thank you for helping stop the spread of flu.

Ed Thornton, DO
Denton County Health Authority

Jessica Gullion, PhD
Chief Epidemiologist

Denton County Health Department Influenza Hotline: 940-348-2584
www.dentoncounty.com/health