

Dear Parents,

Due to the recent influx of swine flu in our area, Lakeside Christian School is taking preventative measures to ensure the safety of your child. If your child is demonstrating flu-like symptoms, he or she will be asked to wear a mask and you will be called to come and pick up your child. If your child is demonstrating flu-like symptoms at home, such as excessive sneezing and coughing or a fever, please do not send him or her to school. The child will be directed to the office immediately and you will be asked to come and pick up your child.

Why use a mask?

The surgical mask is designed to prevent infectious agents from leaving the person wearing it. Masks also prevent infectious agents that may have been expelled into the air through coughing or sneezing, from being inhaled by persons who are caring for someone who is ill with the flu.

When should a mask be worn?

A surgical mask should be put on a child who has become ill with flu-like symptoms at school while waiting to be taken home. The person working the school "clinic" should also wear a surgical mask while caring for children ill with flu-like symptoms. It is important that the designated clinic or room where ill children are waiting is away from main congregate areas and has limited access. Masks should be used only for persons who are ill with flu-like symptoms. Masks **are not** recommended as general prevention measures for healthy children and adults.

These measures are taken to insure the safety of all children, staff, and visitors. These guidelines have been set up for private schools by the Florida Department of Health. Below are some suggestions for prevention of the swine

flu: **Prevent H1N1 influenza (swine flu):**

- Wash your hands often with soap and water
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue while you cough or sneeze. Throw tissue in the trash.
- Get the H1N1 vaccine when it becomes available