



East Baton Rouge Parish School System
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Media Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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EBRPSS Monitoring Confirmed Cases of Flu

Baton Rouge, LA – The East Baton Rouge Parish School System currently is monitoring sporadic, confirmed cases of flu affecting 13 schools. Most cases are **isolated**, and some schools are reporting some absences.

The School System is sending out letters and phone messages to those affected, alerting parents of the situation and reminding them **to keep students home if they have flu-like symptoms**. In addition, the School System, as a precaution, will disinfect the schools affected.

At this time, **there is no need to close any schools**. School System officials will continue to monitor the situation.

The affected schools include: Baton Rouge Center for Visual and Performing Arts, Baton Rouge Magnet High School, Buchanan Elementary School, Glasgow Middle School, Jefferson Terrace Elementary School, La Belle Aire Elementary School, McKinley High School, Melrose Elementary School, Northeast Elementary School, Northeast High School, Park Forest Middle School, Sherwood Magnet Middle School and Wildwood Elementary.

“This is not the time to panic,” said **Sue Catchings of Health Centers in Schools**. “Everything that can be done is being done. There is nothing to be alarmed about, and we will see this in other schools. With proper monitoring and control, however, it should be a contained situation. If that changes, we will change our actions to adapt to it.”

The School System is communicating with principals at all its schools on a regular basis and working closely with the **Health Centers in Schools and the local Public Health Office**.

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In approaching this issue collaboratively, the entities are:

- Tracking the absentee rate at schools
- Talking to teachers and principals about having students wash their hands and covering coughs correctly
- Communicating with schools on a weekly basis
- Following the Centers for Disease Control guidelines for schools and planning appropriately based on the national recommendations

Students can prevent the spread of flu viruses by **washing their hands repeatedly and coughing into their elbow.**

General flu symptoms are similar to those in influenza (flu) and like illnesses and generally include: chills, fever, sore throat, muscle pains, severe headache, coughing, weakness and general discomfort.

Health Centers in Schools provides health services in the School System. For more information, call Sue Catchings at (225) 721-1748.

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