



Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

P.O. Box 1088

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Dear Child Care Director,

On behalf of the Austin/Travis County Health and Human Services Department I want to thank you for your support and participation in the Seasonal and Pandemic Flu Awareness Campaign. We acknowledge and appreciate the critical role day care directors play in raising awareness among parents about how to recognize and care for children when they are sick.

In a year with both seasonal flu and an anticipated third wave of H1N1 in the spring and summer, we are pleased to be able to provide you with a packet of important information to assist you, your staff and the families you serve in this critical effort to prevent the spread of flu. Enclosed you'll find several sample documents with information to pass along to families, including:

- Rest is Best! If You or Someone in Your Family has the Flu, Stay Home
- Keep Your Child Home When...
- Does Your Child Have Fever?
- If Flu Gets to You, Seek Appropriate Health Care Based on Symptoms

We are also pleased to offer to teachers:

- "In Good Hands": A Flu Prevention Lesson Plan
- Stop the Flu in Its Tracks: Morning Health Checklist

Finally, I would like to encourage you to participate in the Austin/Travis County Health & Human Services Department and Texas Department of State Health Services voluntary web-based absentee reporting system, a new effort to better monitor and assess the impact of influenza on child care centers in Travis County. We are hoping that, over the next few months, by asking child care centers such as yours what percentage of students are absent we can indirectly get some idea about the extent to which influenza may be affecting this age group. You can find additional information on that effort, and its importance to helping us track the spread of disease in our community at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/chs/projectdaycare/>

Please feel free to copy these documents for distribution, or download them from our web site, <http://austinflu.com/>. You may also want to regularly check this website with relevant updates, news and additional information that may be of interest to you.

Thank you again for your help in distributing this important information to your staff and the parents and families of our community's youngest citizens. We value the opportunity to be your partners in keeping a healthy environment for children to play and learn.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Lurie".

David Lurie

Director