



**NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND  
MENTAL HYGIENE**

Thomas R. Frieden, MD, MPH  
*Commissioner*

May 1, 2009

Dear Members of the St. Francis Preparatory School Community,

I want to thank you all personally for supporting the Health Department in our effort to understand, and slow, the spread of swine flu in New York City. The attached report describes what we have learned from the online survey that St. Francis students have completed in recent days. An impressive 74% of St. Francis students completed the Survey Monkey questionnaire, enabling the Health Department to better understand the outbreak the school experienced last week.

To track the impact of the outbreak, we are asking all students and staff to complete another very short follow-up survey (again on Survey Monkey), beginning on Sunday, May 3. We will send you the link soon, but we thank you in advance for taking these surveys seriously and completing them quickly and as truthfully as possible.

Please remember that by following a few simple steps, you can help prevent the further spread of the flu in your homes and in the broader community:

- If you have confirmed flu or flu-like illness (fever with cough or sore throat), stay home for 7 days after the first symptoms appear, or for 2 days after all symptoms have resolved – whichever is longer.
- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze and, and wash your hands frequently and thoroughly with soap and warm water.
- As long as you have a cough, stay in a private room whenever possible. If you go into a room with other people, wear a surgical mask over your nose and mouth.

We hope that everyone who has been sick is now feeling better. Anyone who develops severe symptoms, such as difficulty breathing, should visit a doctor or an emergency department immediately. And if you have general health questions or concerns, please call 311.

Thank you again for your support in this investigation, which could not be conducted without you!

Sincerely Yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas R. Frieden".

Thomas R. Frieden, MD, MPH  
*Commissioner*

# ST. FRANCIS PREP UPDATE: Swine Flu Outbreak

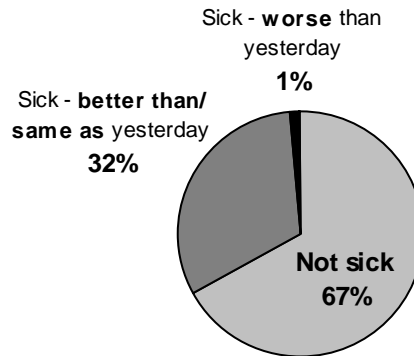
## Survey Monkey Results – *Thanks for your responses!*

### STUDENT DATA

## One third of St. Francis Prep students have been sick with flu-like symptoms

- 1,996 St. Francis Prep students responded to the survey.
- One in three students surveyed (33% or 659 students) reported being sick with flu-like symptoms at some time since April 8.
- Only 1% (27 students) reported being sick and feeling worse than the day before taking the survey. The Health Department is following up with these students on how they feel now and if additional care is needed.

**Flu-like Illness among St. Francis students since April 8**



#### Student Response Rate:

1,996 students (74%)

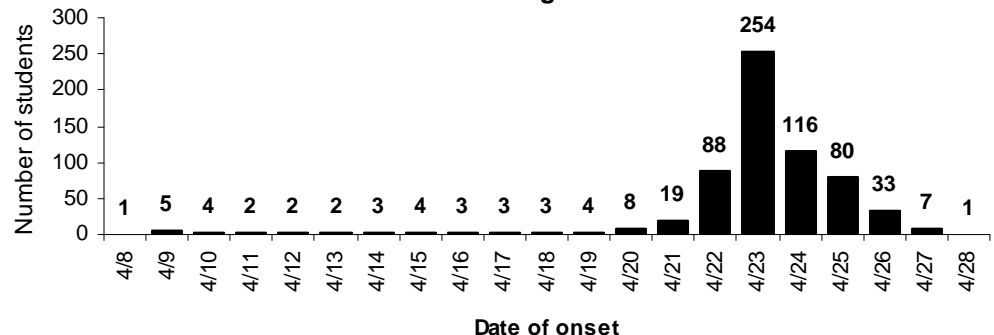
#### Definition of “sick”:

Any student reporting the following symptoms anytime since April 8, 2009: fever AND either cough or sore throat. **Not all students with these reported symptoms have swine flu.**

## Most students became ill between Wednesday and Saturday last week

- The majority of sick students (254) became ill on Thursday, April 23.
- 82% of sick students (538) reported first feeling ill between Wednesday and Saturday (April 22-25).
- Only eight students reported onset of illness after Sunday, April 26.

**Date of Illness Onset among St. Francis students**



No information was available on date of illness onset for 17 students.

### ILLNESS AT HOME

#### Sick and well students reported having ill household members

- Approximately three in ten sick students (29% or 190 students) reported that at least one other member of their household has been sick since April 8.
- Among all students surveyed, 462 of 6,024 household members were reported to have been sick at the time of the survey (8%).

### TRAVEL

#### One in five sick students reported travel outside of NYC since April 8

- A total of 140 sick students (21%) reported traveling anywhere outside of NYC since April 8.
- Six sick students reported traveling to Mexico. One traveled to California, and none traveled to Texas.

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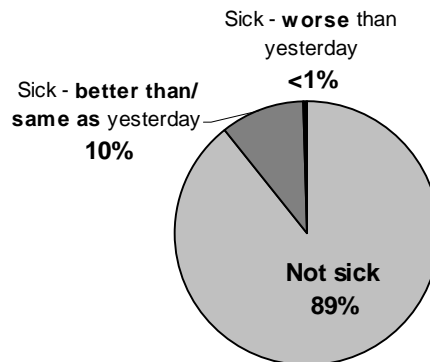
## Survey Monkey Results – *Thanks for your responses!*

### FACULTY AND STAFF DATA

## One tenth of St. Francis Prep staff have been sick with flu-like symptoms

- 210 staff members from St. Francis Prep responded to the survey.
- One in ten St. Francis staff members surveyed (11% or 23 staff members) reported being sick with flu-like symptoms at some time since April 8.
- One staff member reported being sick and feeling worse than the day before taking the survey. The Health Department is following up with this staff member on how he/she feels now and if additional care is needed.

**Flu-like Illness among St. Francis faculty and staff since April 8**



#### Staff Response Rate:

210 faculty and staff members (85%)

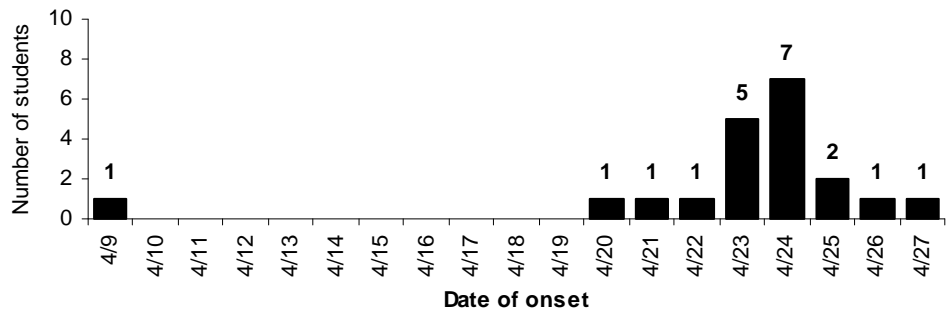
#### Definition of “sick”:

Any staff member reporting the following symptoms anytime since April 8, 2009: fever AND either cough or sore throat. **Not all staff members with these reported symptoms have swine flu.**

## Most staff members became ill between Thursday and Saturday last week

- Twelve sick staff members became ill on Thursday, and Friday (April 23-24).
- More than half of sick staff members (61%) reported first feeling ill between Thursday and Saturday (April 23-25).
- Only one staff member reported onset of illness after Sunday, April 26.

**Date of Illness Onset among St. Francis staff**



*No information was available on date of illness onset for two staff and one staff member reported illness on 4/6/09.*

### ILLNESS AT HOME

#### Sick and well staff reported having ill household members

- Four staff members (17%) reported that at least one other member of their household has been sick since April 8.
- Among all staff surveyed, 28 of 663 household members were reported to have been sick at the time of the survey (4%).

### TRAVEL

#### Nearly half of sick staff reported travel outside of NYC since April 8

- Eleven sick staff members (48%) reported traveling anywhere outside of NYC since April 8.
- Only one of the sick staff members reported traveling to Mexico, one traveled to Texas and none traveled to California.