

September 2009

Dear Parents:

As our school year unfolds, the Novel H1N1 Flu remains a concern. While the symptoms appear to be similar to those of the "Seasonal" Flu, Grayhawk Elementary and the Paradise Valley Unified School District are taking the following precautions:

- 1. Teaching students good hygiene:** The School Nurse (Nurse Lisa) will be going into primary grade classrooms to teach students good hand washing habits, how to cover coughs/sneezes, and to keep hands away from their face. Nurse Lisa will also be reviewing these skills with the intermediate grades. These skills are reinforced by the classroom teachers and are excellent skills to be reinforced at home.
- 2. Seasonal and H1N1 Flu vaccine:** Mollen Immunization Clinics will be offering vaccines at Grayhawk Elementary School in October and November. These dates and specific details will be coming home in the next few weeks. Please note that not all doctors offices will have vaccine available this year. The more students and staff who are vaccinated, the better chance we have of keeping this virus from jumping from child to child in school and then bringing it home to your family.
- 3. Daily monitoring:** We are monitoring the Novel H1N1 and Seasonal Flu closely and will be reporting abnormal absentee rates to the Maricopa County Department of Public Health.

As always, you can help. If a child comes to school sick, he/she can infect classmates at amazing rates, even on fever reducing medications. *Please, keep your child home if he/she is sick.* It is a good idea to have alternative child care arrangements made ahead of time if your child should become ill and you have work or personal commitments.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



Don Hiemstra
Principal
Grayhawk Elementary School



Lisa Van Paris, BSN, RN
School Nurse
Grayhawk Elementary School