

April 29, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As you may already know, an outbreak of swine flu has caused the U.S. to issue a public health emergency. We are aware of one confirmed case of swine flu in Maricopa County, and we are doing everything possible to protect the health of our students and limit the spread of swine flu.

Our school nurse and district administrators are staying informed and monitoring the situation every day. We will respond quickly if we become aware of any confirmed cases in our school or in the district.

Meanwhile, there some simple steps parents can take to ensure the health of their children. If tissues are not available when coughing or sneezing, cough into your shirtsleeve or the bend of your arm. We should wash our hands often with soap and water, especially after we cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective. We should avoid touching our eyes, nose or mouth because germs spread that way.

The symptoms of swine flu are similar to the symptoms of seasonal influenza and include fever, listlessness or no interest in playing, lack of appetite and coughing. Some people with swine flu also have reported runny nose, sore throat, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea. Adults and parents with children that show any warning signs should contact their medical providers for assistance.

Sick children and adults should remain at home and not attend work or school or visit other public places. Children who exhibit symptoms at school will be sent home in the care of a parent or guardian.

You may get more information about swine flu and other infectious diseases from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at <http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/>

Let me assure you that the health and well being of our students is our top priority and we are doing everything possible to address the situation. Please feel free to contact my office if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Principal of Explorer MS