



Maricopa County

Department of Public Health

www.maricopa.gov

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Dear Child Care Providers,

We are asking you to share this message with your staff and parents - so that you can hear from me directly about how this unique strain of flu H1N1(Swine Flu) is affecting our community and you.

Thus far, the virus is behaving no better and no worse than seasonal influenza. Due to this, schools are no longer being closed when a confirmed case of this unique flu is identified.

So – what can you do right now?

What is most important for you to know and understand is that if anyone is ill (whether that is you, your staff or your children), they need to stay home, and treat the symptoms as you/they would normally.

If the condition worsens such as high fever, excessive vomiting and/or diarrhea or difficulty breathing then - yes - seek medical attention. Also, if there are additional health issues such as asthma, diabetes and the like - AND - showing flu-like illness, then yes, seek medical attention.

Pediatric urgent cares, physician offices and community health centers are ready to treat serious illness.

In your center and/or home, help your children practice thorough hand washing, covering their cough and sneezes and using disposable tissues. We have enclosed educational information that will help keep you, your staff and the children from spreading this flu and other communicable diseases.

It is especially important for you to perform daily health checks with the children in your care. Do not allow a child who has symptoms of a flu-like illness (fever with a cough or a sore throat) to remain in your facility. Children or staff who have these symptoms should remain at home for at least 7 days from the time they began to feel sick or until at least 24 hours after their symptoms are gone, whichever is longer. You are our front lines when it comes to preventing flu in our community and we appreciate all that you do.

Our public health web site www.wearepublichealth.org includes the most up-to-date information about the new flu virus. Please don't hesitate to contact Community Health Nursing at 602-506-6767 if you have any questions OR if you are experiencing a greater than 10% occurrence of a particular illness such as influenza-like illness or diarrhea illness in your population.

Please share this information with your family, friends and parents.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bob England

Bob England, MD, MPH
Director
Maricopa County Department of Public Health