



Maricopa County

Public Health

Office of the Director, Dr. Bob England

May 4, 2009

Dear Superintendent and School Nurse:

In response to the new flu outbreak, Maricopa County Department of Public Health is requesting your cooperation in reporting school absences and illness.

Over the weekend, Dr. Bob England, Director of Maricopa Department of Public Health, spoke with school leadership and together the decision was made to no longer dismiss classes in Maricopa County due to a confirmed case of novel influenza. However, because this is a unique strain of flu, the decision was also made to develop a more aggressive surveillance program in our schools so that we can monitor this situation closely. This is where we need your help.

We are requesting the school nurse supervisor/team leader for each school submit the attached form to Public Health daily with the following info:

- number of students absent from each school and
- of those absent, the number with a fever and respiratory symptoms. (Please attempt to gather this information when the parent calls to report their child's absence).

Please send the completed form by **12 noon each day** by email or fax as follows:

Email: SchoolFlu@mail.maricopa.gov

FAX: 602-506-8444, ATTN: Candace Hulbert

We know that some districts were contacted by MCDPH last week and asked to submit daily reports. Now that additional information is needed, please use this method and form included in this letter to send daily reports. We recognize that this is another task added to your very busy day, however please know that the actions you take today play an important role in helping us to control and understand this outbreak, while keeping the schools open.

Our public health website www.wearepublichealth.org, includes the most up to date information about the virus and includes guidance for schools. We are planning on posting

(Page 1 of 2)

(Page 2 of 2)

additional fact sheets very soon including “When to keep Your Child Home from School,” and a “Flu Symptom Checklist for Families and School Staff.” Please don’t hesitate to email or call us if you need additional fact sheets.

Please assist us in being vigilant about sending students home when they are sick and reinforcing your cold and flu messaging. You are our front lines when it comes to preventing flu in our community and we appreciate all that you do.

Please contact Candace at 602-506-6630 or Community Health Nursing at 602-506-6767 with any questions.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Machrina Leach".

Machrina Leach, R.N.
Program Manager
Community Health Nursing
Maricopa County Public Health