



State of Arizona
Department of Education

Tom Horne
Superintendent of
Public Instruction
MEMORANDUM

Date: April 28, 2009
To: Superintendents and Charter Administrators
From: Tom Horne
Subject: Swine Flu Outbreak

The purpose of this memorandum is to facilitate communication between public health authorities and Arizona schools regarding the swine flu outbreak. The swine influenza A (H1N1) virus has not been identified as of yet in Arizona. Nonetheless, there are steps that can be taken that might assist in mitigation of the virus. In brief, school personnel are asked to

- Stay informed by visiting the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) web site at www.cdc.gov/swineflu/index.htm.
- Continue to promote proper hygiene with students and staff, including frequent and thorough hand washing; covering coughs and sneezes with tissue; and refraining from touching the eyes, nose and mouth. Classroom resources for personal hygiene can be found at www.cdc.gov/flu/schools.
- Encourage students and staff with flu symptoms to stay home.
- Know who your county health department contact person is should you need assistance.

CDC interim guidance states that dismissal of students should be strongly considered in schools with a confirmed or a suspected case epidemiologically linked to a confirmed case. Specific information on this recommendation can be found at www.cdc.gov/swineflu/mitigation.htm. School closure is used as a mitigation strategy to limit transmission of the virus.

We are working closely with the Arizona Department of Health Services and other agencies on this issue and will inform you of any significant developments. If you have questions, please contact your county health department or the School Safety and Prevention office, 602-542-8730. Thank you.