

Dear Parent:

At the end of the last school year, we were hearing a great deal about a new type of influenza virus. This new or “novel flu” has not gone away and continues to circulate and make people sick in Mohave County and the rest of the Arizona. Since health experts expect this new virus to continue to circulate and make people sick for many months to come, we want to do our best to keep our school community and your home environment flu-free.

You play an important role in determining how this flu affects our school community. By taking the following actions, you can help us cut down the rate of flu transmission in our school and community:

1. **Teach your children good hygiene:** This means covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue or sleeve, washing hands often with soap and water, and keeping hands away from the face.
2. **Keep your children home when they are sick:** If your child shows signs of a flu-like illness (fever with cough or sore throat, nausea, or vomiting) he or she should stay home until 24 hours after they no longer have a fever (and are not using fever-reducing medicines)—even if they see a doctor and are given antiviral drugs.
3. **Consider seasonal flu vaccine:** Although there won't be a vaccine for the novel flu until later this fall, regular seasonal flu vaccine should be available in September. While seasonal flu vaccine will not protect us against the novel flu, it will help decrease the spread of regular flu in our communities.

We are monitoring flu-like illness at our school and reporting abnormal absentee rates to the Mohave County Department of Public Health.

We cannot stress enough that it will be our parents who will ultimately make the largest impact on our school's health. Thank you for your help.

SINCERELY,
SCHOOL