



Maricopa County

Department of Public Health

www.maricopa.gov

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The following is a message from Dr Bob England from the Maricopa County Department of Public Health.

April 30, 2009

Dear Parents, Staff and Care givers,

I am asking the schools to share this message - so that you can hear from me directly about how Swine Flu is affecting our community and possibly your family.

As you may know already, Swine Influenza has arrived in our community. This is a virus and so far is behaving like Seasonal Flu. We see that the cases here are mild and that the virus responds well to treatment. However, we have had to close schools and this is because this Swine Flu is a new virus and we still need to monitor how it affects us.

So – what can you do right now?

What is most important for you to know and understand is that if you or your child is ill – please stay home, treat the symptoms of fever, vomiting and diarrhea as you would normally.

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

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

In your home, help your children practice thorough hand washing, covering their cough and sneezes and use disposable tissues. Encourage getting rest, keeping hydrate and listening to your children if they are anxious too about getting sick. It is normal for them to also be concerned about what they hear about this virus.

I know this is an anxious time. I too have a child. We will work to keep you updated and informed through your school, through our website www.wearepublichealth.com and through the media.

Thank you for listening to this message.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bob England

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

Julie Frasco, Community Relations for Dr. England