



Pointe Schools

serves a combined student body, K-12, of over 1200 students on three northwest valley campuses.

Students attending a Pointe School will gain foundational **knowledge**, grow in **character** and develop **leadership** skills.

Jody L. Johnson
Superintendent

Richard Gow
Assistant Superintendent

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September 17, 2009

Dear Parent,

This past spring Pointe Schools provided information about the H1N1 (swine) flu. Now that flu season is here, we are once again providing guidance to help decrease the spread of the flu among students and staff.

This novel flu is still circulating in Arizona and it appears to be affecting our younger population at a disproportionately higher rate than the normal "seasonal" flu. The Maricopa County Department of Public Health reports that more than half of those hospitalized have been school or pre-school aged children. According to the Center for Disease Control, Arizona is currently experiencing widespread influenza.

We all need to be vigilant in efforts to keep our schools flu-free. The schools have taken many steps to help limit the spread of illness. However, your actions as a parent will also have a big impact on how the flu will affect our schools and the community. By taking the following actions you can help slow the rate of flu transmission:

Teach your children good hygiene. This includes covering coughs and sneezes with elbows, washing hands properly, and keeping hands away from faces.

Please keep your kids home when they are sick: Sick students can infect classmates (and teachers) causing the flu to spread exponentially. Students and staff must be fever free for at least 24 hours (without medication) before returning to school.

Consider seasonal flu vaccine: The more students (and staff) vaccinated with the seasonal and H1N1 flu vaccines greater the likelihood we can curtail its spread. If your primary care doctor does not have the flu vaccine, you can contact Community Information and Referral at 602-263-8856 for vaccine clinic locations.

We are monitoring both the novel and seasonal flu closely and will be reporting abnormal absentee rates in our schools to the Maricopa County Department of Public Health. However, we cannot stress enough you as a parent will ultimately make the largest impact on the health of our schools.

You can visit the Maricopa County Department of Health's Web site, www.wearepublichealth.org for the most current information regarding the H1N1 virus.

Sincerely,

Jody L. Johnson, MAEd
Superintendent
Pointe Schools

This letter was prepared with Information provided by the Maricopa County Health Department