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INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT
Margo Olivares-Seck, Ed.D.

September 28, 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Several months ago, the District took a proactive stance on communicating critical information regarding the H1N1 or "Swine" flu.

This novel flu is still circulating in Arizona and it appears that it is affecting our younger population at a disproportionately higher rate than our 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, and confirms one pediatric death this summer in our county attributed to H1N1. Many more cases are possible this fall. Because of this, we all need to become much more vigilant in our efforts to keep our school community and your home environment flu-free.

You play an important role in how the flu will affect our school and, ultimately, the health of our community. By taking the following actions, you can help us cut down the rate of flu transmission drastically in our community:

1. **Teach your child good hygiene (we will be doing the same at school).** This means teaching them how to cover coughs/sneezes with their elbows, good hand washing habits, and to keep their hands away from their face.
2. **Keep your kids home when they are sick.** When a student comes to school sick, he/she can infect classmates at amazing rates. If too many students are sick at school, we may be required to implement extreme measures such as closing the school, which has a negative effect on all of us.
3. **Consider seasonal flu vaccine.** Although there won't be a vaccine for the H1N1 flu until later this fall, our regular seasonal flu vaccine is available now. The more students (and staff) who are vaccinated with seasonal flu vaccine, the better chance we have of keeping this virus from jumping from student to student in our schools and then bringing it home to your family. If your primary care doctor does not have flu vaccine, contact Community Information and Referral at 602-263-8856 for vaccine locations.

We will closely monitor both the H1N1 and seasonal flu and will report abnormal absentee rates in our schools to the Maricopa County Department of Public Health. However, we cannot stress enough that it will be our parents who will ultimately make the largest impact on the health of our school.

Please contact us should you need further assistance in dealing with this emerging public health threat.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margo Olivares-Seck".

Dr. Margo Olivares-Seck
Interim Superintendent