

Tom Horne
Superintendent

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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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**ARIZONA SCHOOLS CHIEF TOM HORNE RELEASES MEMO TO SCHOOLS ON
MEASURES FOR DEALING WITH SWINE FLU – CALLS FOR SCHOOL CLOSURES IF
THERE IS A LOCAL OUTBREAK**

PHOENIX – Arizona Schools Chief Tom Horne today released a memo to schools advising them to take necessary precautions in the event that we have a case of the swine flu at one of our schools.

Horne stated: “I want every one to be on high alert in the event that one of our students has been identified with the swine flu. In the event that we do have an identified case at a school, I would recommend closure of that campus in order to stop the spread of the virus.”

Attached is the memo sent to schools today.

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.

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