

# SCHOOL MONTHLY REPORT

OCTOBER 2009

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## THANKS BE TO YOU!

*Thank you Pima County  
school nurses!*

*Thank you for keeping us in  
the loop with your absentee-  
ism due to influenza like  
illness. We appreciate your  
efforts to protect your  
students and keeping us  
informed.*

See page 3 for more  
information on absen-  
teeism in Pima County  
Schools.

## SCHOOL NURSES ARE A PRIORITY GROUP FOR H1N1 VACCINE

The groups recommended to receive the novel H1N1 influenza vaccine include:

- Pregnant women because they are at higher risk of complications and can potentially provide protection to infants who cannot be vaccinated
- Household contacts and caregivers for children younger than 6 months of age because younger infants are at higher risk of influenza-related complications and cannot be vaccinated
- Vaccination of those in close contact with infants less than 6 months old might help protect infants by “cocooning” them from the virus
- Healthcare and emergency medical services personnel because infections among healthcare workers have been reported and this can be a potential source of infection for vulnerable patients. Also, increased absenteeism in this population could reduce healthcare system capacity
- All people from 6 months through 24 years of age
- Children from 6 months through 18 years of age because of the many cases of novel H1N1 influenza in children and they are in close contact with each other in school and day care settings, which increases the likelihood of disease spread
- Young adults 19 through 24 years of age because of the many cases of novel H1N1 influenza in these healthy young adults and they often live, work, and study in close proximity, and they are a frequently mobile population
- Persons aged 25 through 64 years who have health conditions associated with higher risk of medical complications from influenza

## PCHD WEBSITE HAS H1N1 SHOT CLINIC INFORMATION

**Please get your H1N1 vaccinations!**

Check with your health care provider, or visit our website for more information on ongoing H1N1 shot clinics.

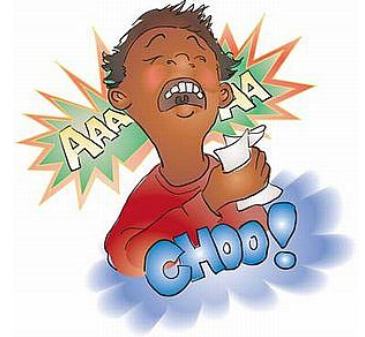
[http://pimahealth.org/disease/swineflu/h1n1\\_influenza\\_arizona.asp](http://pimahealth.org/disease/swineflu/h1n1_influenza_arizona.asp)



**INFLUENZA**

Please report the following influenza activity in your schools:

- Absenteeism = 10% or more due to ILI\*
- Clusters of ILI\* = absenteeism 10% or more in a classroom or grade (May not equal 10% of entire school)
- Severe Illness = ILI\* leading to hospitalization more than 24 hours (more than simple emergency room visit)
- Any unexplained or unusual illness affecting staff and/or students



\*ILI = influenza-like illness: fever  $\geq 100.0^{\circ}\text{F}$  AND at least one of the following: cough, sore throat, nasal congestion, and/or runny nose.

**SUMMARY OF REPORTABLE CONDITIONS  
INFANTS AND SCHOOL CHILDREN AGED 0–19 YEARS  
PIMA COUNTY, SEPTEMBER 2009**

Morbidity	Age Group		
	0-4 years	5-19 years	Total
Campylobacteriosis	2	2	4
Coccidioidomycosis	0	16	16
Cryptosporidiosis	1	0	1
Giardiasis	1	0	1
Influenza virus	15	125	140
Lyme disease	0	1	1
Mumps	0	1	1
Pertussis	1	0	1
Salmonellosis	7	4	11
Shigellosis	4	2	6
Strep Group B, age <90 days	2	0	2
Varicella (chickenpox)	6	3	9
Vibrio infection	1	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>195</b>

*How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in life you will have been all of these.*  
- George Washington Carver



Statistical data reflects communicable disease reports of confirmed, probable, and suspect cases received via the Medical Electronic Disease Surveillance Intelligence System (MEDSIS) from 09/01/2009 to 09/30/2009. MEDSIS was accessed on 10/5/2009. Data are provisional, and cases from 2009 may still be under investigation.

**INCREASED ABSENTEEISM AND SCHOOL CLOSURES**

Increasing Absenteeism

Absenteeism is increasing in Pima County. We are receiving increased reporting of absenteeism from schools, and we monitor absenteeism in TUSD via their website, <http://tusdstats.tusd.k12.az.us/paweb/aggd/attendance/menu.aspx>.

Call PCHD with reports of increased absenteeism, (520) 243-7797 and visit our website for resources, letters to parents, etc.

Please remember to report ILI that leads to hospitalization.

School Closures

Two Pima County schools chose to close due to increased absenteeism.

Our goal is to protect Pima County students and to keep all schools open. We are seeing increased illness, however it is mild illness. To date we are not seeing increased flu related mortality.

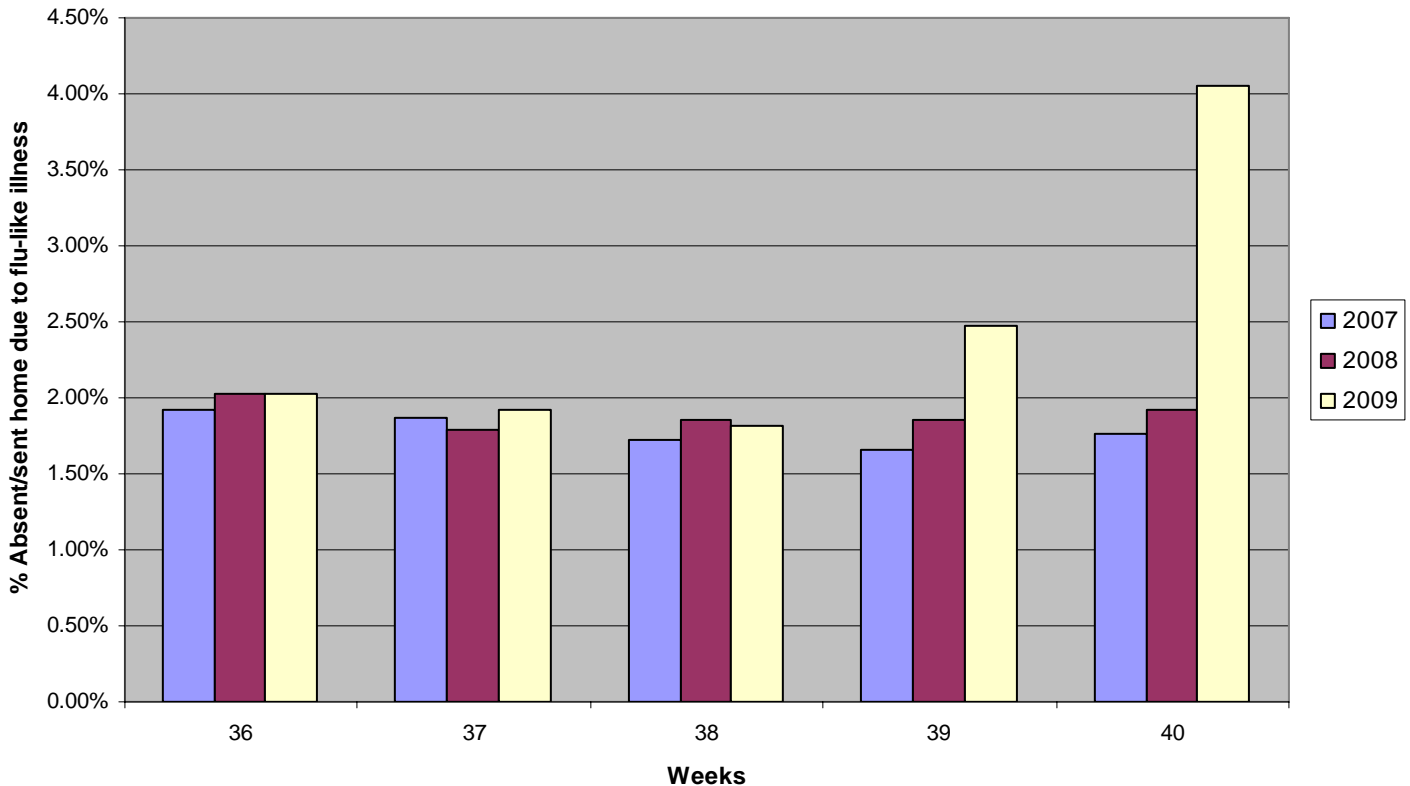
In schools with increasing influenza activity and absenteeism we recommend that schools consider discussing exclusion with the parents and guardians of their medically fragile students.

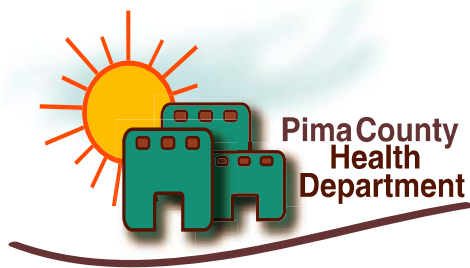
*"It feels like we have been hit by a freight train."*

*-Quote from TUSD nurse describing increasing absenteeism*

**DOES YOUR DISTRICT'S ABSENTEEISM LOOK LIKE THIS?**

**TUSD Attendance for Years 2007 - 2009, Weeks 36-40  
Student Absenteeism for Flu-like Illness  
(Week 40 ends October 10, 2009)**





**PIMA COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

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**We are on the web!**

**[www.pimahealth.org](http://www.pimahealth.org)**

**Our Vision** is to help the residents of Pima County achieve and maintain an optimal level of wellness.

**Our Mission** is to be a leader in protecting health, preventing disease and promoting community well-being.

**Our Operational Tenets** focus on leadership, assessment and assurance.

The Pima County Health Department and its members are committed to embracing and promoting diversity throughout our programs. Our rich diversity of racial and ethnic heritage, gender, sexual orientation and other life experiences enhances our work environment, collaboration with our community partners, care for our clients, and our public health presence throughout Pima County.

**FAQS FROM CALLS TO PCHD BY SCHOOL NURSES**

**Does my school need to send in the detailed monthly flu report?**

No. The detailed monthly flu report is no longer required. Please report as requested on page 2. We are continuing to collect the varicella data, so please keep sending those monthly.

**What is the definition of a medically fragile child (in terms of school guidance)?**

For the swine flu school guidance, a medically fragile child is a child

who needs intensive, life sustaining medical assistance or therapy, and needs assistance with daily living (for example, a child who uses an oxygen tank, has trouble moving, is fed through a tube, needs suctioning, or is on a ventilator). Many of these children need skilled nursing care and special medical equipment. These medically fragile children may have chronic lung disease, severe cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, immuno-

deficiency, or problems with their metabolism.

**How long can an infected person spread H1N1 (swine) flu to others?**

People with H1N1 (swine) influenza virus infection should be considered potentially contagious as long as they have flu symptoms and possibly for up to 7 days following the start of illness. Children, especially younger children, might potentially be contagious for longer periods.



**What is the incubation period for H1N1?**

Flu symptoms usually develop within three to four days of contact with an infected person, though it may take up to seven days.

**Questions or suggestions about this report?**

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