



TEHAMA COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Larry P. Champion, Tehama County Superintendent of Schools

1135 Lincoln Street • P.O. Box 689 • Red Bluff, CA 96080 • (530) 527-5811 • FAX (530) 529-4120

April 30, 2009

Dear Administrator,

Beginning Monday, May 4, 2009, Public Health has asked Tehama County schools to begin early surveillance for flu-like symptoms.

Please note that to date there has **not** been a documented case of Swine Flu in Tehama County. During all stages of a flu outbreak, it is essential to monitor and document the number of students and faculty who are absent and meet the definition of influenza-like illness. Keeping track of these numbers will help health officials determine when and whether to close schools, whether the epidemic is increasing in scope, and whether to declare an epidemic, making schools eligible to apply for reimbursement of ADA funds during increased absenteeism. Dr. Wickenheiser, the Tehama County Health Officer, will determine when a school is to close due to the flu.

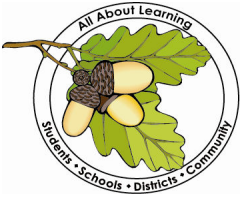
Attached are the forms to be used to track student and staff absences due to flu-like symptoms during periods of high rates of flu illness in the community. Form #1 is Influenza Case Definition, Form #2 Tehama County Weekly School Flu Census, and Form #3 is the Flu Activity Log. Form #1 should be used to determine which symptoms we are looking for and Form #3 is a daily tally sheet that is used to complete Form #2 at the end of the week.

Form #2 must be completed and faxed to Sharon Sinclair by 3:30 pm (529-4134) on Friday of each week. Sharon will then compile the information and forward it to Public Health. If you have questions on how to complete the forms, please call Sharon Sinclair at 528-7374 or on her cell 526-8367.

Thank you for all of your time and cooperation during this very difficult situation.

Sincerely,

Larry Champion
County Superintendent



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Influenza Case Definition

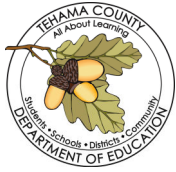
The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention defines an influenza-like illness as having the following symptoms:

Fever of 100° degrees Fahrenheit or higher

AND ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Cough
- Sore throat
- Headache
- Muscle ache

A student with flu-like symptoms must be sent to the office for screening (symptom check and/or taking temperature). If student meets the case definition as described above, he/she must be excluded from school until symptom free. Enter name of student on tracking log and report on the daily/weekly report form.



Tehama County Weekly School Flu Census

This form is to be used to track student and staff absences due to flu-like symptoms during periods of high rates of flu illness in the community. This information will help Public Health survey the community for a potential epidemic.

Flu-like illness matches the definition:

- Fever of 100 degrees or higher **and**
- One or more of the following primary symptoms:
 - Cough
 - Sore throat
 - Headache and/ muscle aches

Name of School _____ Week Ending _____

Elementary _____ Middle _____ High School _____ Other: _____

School District _____ City _____

Reporting Individual _____ Phone _____

Number of students absent with flu-like illness this week: _____

Total number of students enrolled at your school: _____

ADA for the week: _____

Number of staff/faculty absent with flu-like illness this week: _____

Total number of staff/faculty employed in your school: _____

Assistance needed/comments: _____

Fax this form each Friday during the period of Heightened Surveillance

To:

Sharon Sinclair at 530- 529-4134

If you have questions regarding this form or disease

Call 527-5811

Flu Activity Log

1 wk tally of student absences from flu

School:

Date:

Number of Cases	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
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43					
44					
45					
46					
47					
48					
49					
50					
Additional					
Total					