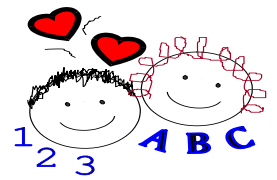


IMPORTANT: Flu - CCS Health Policy



Dear CCS Parents,

***Please partner with CCS to protect the health of our children and families!
You MUST NOT send your child to school with ANY signs of illness!***

Schools in Arizona and across the country are experiencing a very high absentee rate. Challenge is no exception. Illness and flu-like symptoms are responsible for most of these absences.

I spoke to the Health Department today. They confirmed that absenteeism is, unfortunately, very normal right now and that school closures will not help in limiting the spread of flu. Therefore, Challenge will remain open. The number one advice being given by all physicians and State/National Health agencies is to stay home and keep your family home if there are **ANY** signs of illness; not just limited to fever. Children cannot attend school with a fever and cannot return to school until they have been fever free for at least 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medication. Please keep your child home if they feel sick, even if they don't have a fever.

Students showing signs of illness will be immediately removed from class and sent home. Please be responsive and pick up ill children immediately. **During this flu season, we will not be preparing homework for pick up during an absence. Sick children need to rest to fight this nasty flu season!! Also, your visit to the school is another exposure if your family has the flu. Teachers also cannot prepare all of this make up work individually; so they will be flexible in assisting children to make up the work missed, after they are back at school.**

We are taking every measure here on campus to limit the spread of illness. We are wiping down all tables, chairs, etc. in each classroom with disinfectant during the day (while classes are at lunch) and again at the end of each school day in addition to our normal cleaning regimen. We are also disinfecting common areas, such as drinking fountains, door handles etc. frequently throughout the day.

Please be assured that our CCS Staff is diligent in the following things and that we enforce these practices for your child and assist them in the habit of them. Please partner with us in assisting our kids in these areas at home and helping teach these habits:

- Hand washing with soap and water and hand sanitizer/wipes before and after every meal, bathroom trip, recess, etc.
- Covering the nose & mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue away after being used. If your hand is used to cover; wash your hand immediately.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, or mouth.

Please understand that sometimes your child is not sent to see Sabrina, CCS Health Tech, if they complain of headache or "common" complaints, not associated with illness. We do not want to expose these children to others with real illness in her office and increase the spread of any type of illness.

You can visit the AZ Department of Health's webpage, www.azdhs.gov/, for updates on health conditions in our state. We are prepared and will communicate with families if other steps are needed. However, we hope for healthy days ahead!

Thank you for your support,

Principal Wendy Miller