

SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY
Public Health Services
Healthy Future

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To Whom It May Concern:

Under the California Education Code school districts are able to request an allowance for unusually low average daily attendance if there has been a community wide outbreak that impacts children's school attendance.

Due to the H1N1 Influenza Pandemic, influenza rates were at epidemic levels very early this year. I reviewed the influenza surveillance data for both San Joaquin County and the State of California. From reviewing various sources of surveillance data, influenza activity in San Joaquin County has been at epidemic levels since September 1, 2009. This influenza activity has adversely affected the average daily attendance of schools throughout San Joaquin County. Since the above date, student absenteeism of 10% or more in a school on any given day is very likely due to the increased incidence of influenza in the children.

Surveillance data is showing that the pandemic H1N1 influenza is still continuing. As the traditional influenza season is just now starting, it is expected that epidemic levels of influenza will continue through the early spring of 2010 and will continue to impact school attendance. A specific end date can not be predicted at this time.

If you have any questions I can be reached at (209) 468-3411.

Sincerely,



Karen Furst, M.D., M.P.H.
Health Officer