

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



DR. CHRISTINA M. KISHIMOTO
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KIPAPA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
95-076 KIPAPA DRIVE
MILILANI, HI 96789

January 30, 2019

Dear Kipapa Elementary Parents and Guardians:

We are sending this letter to inform you of an increase of influenza cases among our students. As we are not allowed to identify the individuals due to the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) federal privacy law, we are addressing this as a universal precaution and are advising everyone to be alert to this situation.

According to the Hawaii Department of Health (DOH), influenza, commonly called the "flu," is caused by the influenza virus, which infects the respiratory tract (nose, throat, lungs). Unlike many other viral respiratory infections, such as the common cold, the flu can cause a more severe illness and possibly life-threatening complications. Symptoms of the flu include fever, nonproductive cough, sore throat, fatigue, body aches, headache, and runny nose.

The most effective way to prevent getting sick with the flu is to be vaccinated with the influenza vaccine every year. Vaccination is recommended each year due to the constant evolving nature of influenza viruses.

To prevent yourself from getting sick or to prevent spreading the flu, cover your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing, avoid close contact with people who are sick (or stay away from others when you are sick), wash your hands frequently with soap and water, and avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth.

Thank you for your kokua. It is important that we work together to keep our children in good health and everyone benefits from a safe and healthy school environment. If you have any questions about Influenza, we encourage you to contact your family healthcare provider or call the DOH Disease Outbreak Control Division at 808-587-6845.

Sincerely,

Corinne Yogi
Corinne Yogi
Principal