



ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TAYLOR EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION COMPLEX
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May 5, 2010

Dear Parents, Guardians and Employees:

During the weeks of April 5-30, 2010, there were no reported cases of flu-like illnesses in our schools. Schools were closed on Friday, April 2nd and Monday, April 5th.

School is almost over and your child is tired all of the time and doesn't want to do anything. Is he/she sick? Most likely it is just a case of "senioritis" or end of the school year blues, especially if there are no other symptoms.

But there are many infections that are common in the late spring and summer and which can cause similar symptoms. This can be surprising to parents who expect infections, such as the [cold and flu](#), to occur in the winter. Among the viruses that can commonly cause infections in the summer include enteroviruses (stomach bugs), parainfluenza (respiratory bugs) and poliovirus (polio). Although more common in winter, it is also possible to catch a rhinovirus -- the common cold -- in the summer.

Mosquitoes, Ticks and More: Mosquito-borne infections are commonly caused by the arboviruses and can lead to fever or encephalitis. This is more common in the summer, specifically the late summer and early autumn. Tick-borne illnesses include Lyme disease and [Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever](#). Be sure to tell your pediatrician if your child gets sick following a tick bite. Another important cause of infections and illness in the summer months is food poisoning or food-borne illnesses. Because bacteria thrive in warm, moist environments, food poisoning is relatively frequent in the summer when there are an increased number of cookouts and picnics.

Remember to be as vigilant in the spring and summer as you are during the winter months.

We will continue to track illness in all our schools and report the data monthly.

Sincerely,

Jan Carpenter, M.S. Ed
Director, Special Education