

May 4, 2009

Dear Parents and Players,

Many of you have heard news reports about cases of swine flu in the U. S. and other countries and here in Utah. Please know that we are concerned about the health and safety of your children.

Public health officials have advised that is okay to continue our normal activities as long as we are not sick and do not have flu symptoms.

Our coaches are being encouraged to be proactive in sending players home who might show up sick, and will advise UYSA if they become aware of players potentially infected with the flu. We are encouraging teams to be prepared with hand sanitizer and are temporarily discouraging hand shakes at the beginning and end of games, and eliminate the sharing of water bottles.

We will continue to monitor the situation. All decisions will be made in conjunction with the local Health Departments and state officials. We will notify parents immediately if the situation changes and it becomes necessary to cancel any league or State Cup games.

Flu spreads easily. If you think your child is getting the flu, it is important that he/she does not attend school, practice or games. This will reduce the possibility of spreading the germs to other people.

Below are a few simple steps that will help your children reduce the risk of getting the flu and protect others from infection. We encourage you to discuss these steps with your children.

- Wash hands often
- Use hand sanitizer. Gels, rubs, and hand wipes all work well as long as they contain at least 60% alcohol. Please dispose of hand wipes properly and do not leave them on the fields.
- Remind your children to keep their hands away from their faces and avoid touching their mouths, noses or eyes.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with tissues and throw away the tissue or cough into the inside of an elbow not your hands!
- Set a good example for your children by following these tips.

We will continue to update our homepage with resources and information specific to Utah Youth Soccer. Thank you for your concern and cooperation in keeping our children and soccer healthy.

Sincerely,
Cindy Baron
Utah Youth Soccer Association