

MOHAVE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

700 West Beale Street , P.O. Box 7000, Kingman, Arizona 86402-7000 (928)753-0743 FAX (928)718-5547
Patty Mead, R.N. M.S.
Health Director



For immediate release

November 15, 2006 (Mohave County, Kingman) – The Nursing Services Division of the Mohave County Department of Public Health (MCDPH) is investigating a possible outbreak of gastrointestinal illness in the Golden Valley area. According to Christy Bronston, Nursing Services Manager, “We received notification earlier today from the Kingman Unified School District that 195 - 200 students and teachers at Black Mountain Elementary School are out with various symptoms of gastrointestinal illness.” Bronston stated that Public Health Nursing has started an investigation and is working with local medical providers to determine if there is a common source for the illness. Specimens will be collected sent to the Arizona State Lab for testing and identification of the cause of illness. Bronston stated that, “It’s too early in the investigation to determine what the cause of illness is and specimen testing will take several days once they are received at the State Lab.” Until the cause of the illness is determined, Bronston is urging everyone to ensure they are washing their hands frequently, especially after using the restroom and prior to handling food. Hand washing is one of the best methods to reduce the spread of germs that cause disease. If you aren’t able to wash your hands, use an alcohol based hand sanitizer. As with any illness, individuals should seek medical attention as needed.

--END--