



# FLAGSTAFF UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

3285 East Sparrow Avenue Flagstaff, Arizona 86004 (928)527-6000

September 29, 2014

Dear Doney Park Families,

As you may be aware, the community has been recently notified about fleas testing positive for plague in the Doney Park area. FUSD has put into place several precautions to protect the children at Cromer School. The grounds have been inspected and currently there is no evidence of prairie dog activity or “die off”. In 2005 FUSD built underground fences and installed artificial turf at Cromer School to discourage prairie dog colonization. If *any* school reports a prairie dog “die off”, FUSD will contact Coconino County Public Health Department Services (CCPHDS), who will come and apply (school grounds only) insecticides to kill the fleas. If this application is to be done at any school site, the school district will post notification to parents and families of the date of the insecticide application.

While Cromer School currently does not have any prairie dog activity, according to CCPHDS, all Doney Park residents are urged to take the following precautions to reduce their families’ risk of exposure:

1. **Do not** handle sick or dead animals.
2. **Prevent pets from roaming loose.** Pets can pick up the infected fleas of wild animals and then pass fleas on to their owners. Cats with plague can also pass the disease on to humans directly through respiratory droplets.
3. **De-flea pets routinely.** Contact your veterinarian for specific recommendations.
4. **Avoid exposure to rodent burrows and fleas.**
5. **Use insect repellents** when visiting or working in areas where plague might be active or rodents might be present (campers, hikers, woodcutters and hunters).
6. **Wear rubber gloves** and other protection when cleaning and skinning wild animals.
7. **Do not** camp next to rodent burrows and avoid sleeping directly on the ground.
8. **Be aware** that cats are highly susceptible to this disease and while they can get sick from a variety of illnesses, a sick cat (especially one allowed to run at large outside) should receive care by a veterinarian for proper diagnosis and treatment to reduce human exposure to plague.
9. **In case of illness (fever, chills, headache, weakness, muscle pain and swollen lymph glands), contact a physician immediately.**

If you have any further questions or concerns regarding the identification, diagnosis or prevention of plague, please call CCPHDS Environmental Services at (928) 679-8750.