

# Influenza Procedures for Early Childhood Events

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The Scott County Libraries want to provide a safe and healthy environment for you and your children.

Children under 5 are at higher risk of severe illness from influenza than older children, and children this age have more difficulty following infectious disease precautions, like good hand-washing and covering coughs & sneezes.

We ask parents & caregivers to follow Minnesota Department of Health pre-school program guidelines if your child is sick:

- Keep your child at home if they have a fever and a sore throat or cough (take temperature *before* giving fever-reducing medicine).
- Stay home from library events until five days after the symptoms first appeared OR 24 hours after your child's symptoms go away, *whichever is longer*.

If you or any other member of your household is sick (fever and a sore throat or cough), follow the CDC guidelines and keep your child home from library events for five days from the time any person in the household became sick.

If local schools close due to widespread influenza infections, libraries may suspend early literacy classes and storytimes. If a school in your town closes, please call your local branch or check the website to see if early childhood events will take place.

For more information, visit the Minnesota Department of Health website at [www.health.state.mn.us](http://www.health.state.mn.us) and the Centers for Disease Control at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov)