



To All Parents/Carers

July 2009

Dear Parents/Carers

Re: Influenza A H1N1v ('Swine Flu')

As you will be aware an increasing number of cases of Swine Flu are being reported locally and across London. As a result of this, the approach to managing suspected cases including those in schools is now different from that in the early stages of the outbreak.

We are not now advising closure of schools for public health reasons or the issuing of preventative anti-virals for all children and staff. This is because with the increasing number of "swine flu" cases in the wider community outside school, closing a school is unlikely to stop the spread of this infection. In addition, in those schools with several children or staff absent with suspected flu, then it is likely that spread has already occurred in the school.

What you can do

1. It is important that the school are aware of any diagnoses that have been made by your GP. Please contact the school through the normal channels.
2. In the meantime, if your child is unwell, it is important for them to remain at home until they are recovered. Symptoms of swine flu include a high temperature, cough, runny nose, sore throat, headache, limb/joint pains and possibly diarrhoea and vomiting.
3. Attention to personal hygiene is an important when trying to control these types of illnesses. Please help your child to blow their nose into a tissue, put the tissues in the bin and wash their hands when they have been to the toilet and before eating food.
4. Please call your GP or *NHS Direct* on 0845 46 47 if you require medical assistance.
5. Visit the NHS Choices website: www.nhs.uk for further information.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Yours faithfully

Dr Rachel Heathcock
Consultant in Communicable Disease Control

Health Protection Agency

**South East London
Health Protection Unit**

1 Lower Marsh
London
SE1 7NT

Tel 0203 049 4338
Fax 0207 633 9734
www.hpa.org.uk