

13 July 2009

Dear Parent/Carer

Swine Flu Guidelines

I am aware there has been a heightened awareness about swine flu recently and want to reassure all parents that there is no cause for concern or worry. If any cases do arise we are fully briefed on the correct action to take.

As you may be aware, the Government has moved to a treatment phase to manage the current pandemic flu outbreak. Schools will now only close if local circumstances warrant it, for example if a significant number of pupils or teachers are ill.

The NHS has plans in place to deal with cases of swine flu. Advice remains for individuals that, unless you have flu-like symptoms, there is no need to stop your normal everyday activities, such as going to work or school.

NHS guidance asks that people ensure they continue to follow good hygiene practices and they "catch it, bin it, kill it" when they sneeze or cough. This means you should:

- cover your mouth and nose when coughing and sneezing, using a tissue
- throw the tissue away quickly and carefully
- wash your hands regularly with soap and water
- clean hard surfaces (like door handles and remote controls) frequently with a normal cleaning product

If you feel your child is displaying flu like symptoms they should remain at home and you should seek advice from NHS Direct on 0845 4647 or www.nhs.uk. If you are still concerned, call your GP who will be able to provide a clinical diagnosis and appropriate advice on treatment over the phone. Inform the school/college absence line as usual on 01489 894555.

To read the latest official advice and find out about the simple steps you can take to help protect yourself and others visit www.nhs.uk or call the Swine Flu Information Line on 0800 1 513 513. Further information about swine flu can also be found on the Health Protection Agency website www.hpa.org.uk/swineflu.

Please also refer to the guidelines as issued in the government leaflet distributed to your household. This is also online at www.direct.gov.uk/en/Swineflu/DG_177831.

Yours sincerely

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