

29<sup>th</sup> June 2009

Dear Parents / Guardians

**A/H1N1 virus (Swine Flu)**

I am sure you will all be aware of the situation regarding the spread of Swine Flu in the locality. There have been a number of confirmed cases of the A/H1N1 virus in a local primary school. Last Friday (26 June) I received an unconfirmed report that one of our students may have contracted the virus.

Therefore I wanted to make you aware of the situation and forward the advice I have received, as follows:

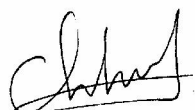
- The advice from the Health Protection Agency (HPA) is that affected schools should remain open as there would be no added public health benefit from closing the school to lessen the spread of the virus.
- This is because there have been a significant number of children in the community with the illness already and so it is likely that people will come into contact with the virus outside of school while mixing with family and friends.
- Redbridge NHS will not issue medication to all children at any school regardless of whether children at the school are exhibiting symptoms.

More specifically the advice regarding attendance at school is as follows:

- Any child with a confirmed case of Swine Flu must stay at home until well. Parents / Guardians should advise the school of the situation.
- Any member of staff who is confirmed as having contracted the virus must stay at home until well.
- There is no need for any child or member of staff who is in contact with a person who has Swine Flu to stay away from school.
- Students and staff have been given hygiene advice: catch it, kill it, bin it.

I hope this clarifies matters as they stand. I enclose further advice regarding hygiene and various contact numbers if you wish to seek further advice.

Yours sincerely,



**C Van Bussel**  
**Headteacher**

### **Additional NHS Advice A/H1N1 virus (Swine Flu)**

General infection control practices and good respiratory hand hygiene are significantly effective in reducing transmission of all viruses, including the human swine influenza.

This includes:

- Covering your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, using a tissue when possible
- Disposing of dirty tissues promptly and carefully
- Maintaining good basic hygiene, for example washing hands frequently with soap and water to reduce the spread of the virus from your hands to face or to other people
- Cleaning hard surfaces (e.g. work surfaces and door handles) frequently using a normal cleaning product
- Making sure your children follow this advice
- Covering your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, using a tissue when possible
- Disposing of dirty tissues promptly and carefully

Cases of swine flu are now determined by clinical diagnosis by your GP as opposed to swabbing and laboratory testing. Swabbing was originally carried out so health experts could initially study its make-up and transmission as a new virus. This is no longer necessary as swine flu is now circulating at large amongst the community.

If your child has flu-like symptoms, please telephone your GP for assessment or NHS Direct. Further information on Swine Flu is also available by phoning 0800 1 513 513.

You can download more basic hygiene advice by going to [www.redbridge.nhs.uk](http://www.redbridge.nhs.uk) or for more information visit [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)