



Northamptonshire County Council

Please ask for: Ruth O'Donnell
Tel: (01604) 236716
Our ref: Swine Flu Update
Date: 13 July 2009

Dear Parent or Carer,

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the advice we have been given by the NHS and Health Protection Agency about the changes in guidance for dealing with any cases of swine flu.

National guidance has been updated so that school closures are only likely in exceptional circumstances, and preventative antiviral drugs will no longer be routinely offered to large groups of school pupils. As swine flu starts to circulate more freely in the local community, these measures are no longer effective, as people may be exposed to the virus outside school, or as soon as they have finished a course of drugs.

The most important advice we have been given is that children who have symptoms of flu-like illness should stay at home until they have recovered and are free of symptoms. This is to avoid spreading the infection as much as possible. Please let your school know that your child is absent from school, following the school's normal absence procedures until the end of term and also when your school re-opens in September.

You can check any symptoms online at www.nhs.uk or call the Swine Flu Information Line on 0800 1 513 513. If you are still concerned, stay at home and call your GP, who may suggest a course of anti-viral drug treatment. This is designed to reduce the symptoms and help a quicker recovery. If your doctor does advise anti-viral treatment for a child, please let the school know as soon as possible.

Whether schools are open or closed for the holidays please keep your children at home and away from other children if they have symptoms to avoid the spread of infection. You should also do what you can to prevent the infection from being spread by taking some simple precautions:

- Covering your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, using a tissue when possible.
- Disposing of dirty tissues promptly and carefully.

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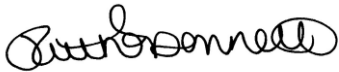


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- Washing your hands frequently with soap and water to reduce the spread of the virus from your hands to your face or to other people.
- Cleaning hard surfaces (such as door handles) frequently using a normal cleaning product.
- Making sure your children follow this advice.

Thank you for taking the time to read this important information, which I hope you find informative and helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ruth O'Donnell', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ruth O'Donnell
Strategic Manager

Commissioning, Policy and Business Improvement
Children and Young People's Service