



Cleeve Park School

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UPDATE ADVICE ON SWINE FLU VIRUS (H1N1) **8 JULY 2009**

This is to advise parents on the position of the school with regard to the swine flu virus (H1N1).

As you will know from the media, this flu-like illness is circulating widely now within the wider community outside the school. Given the prevalence of swine flu within the wider community, the response is now being "normalised." Suspected cases will no longer be swabbed and tested; from now on GPs will make a clinical diagnosis based on symptoms and treat accordingly. Even where cases are suspected, they may not all be treated with antivirals; that will be the GP's decision.

It is important that anyone who is unwell should not attend school while they have flu-like symptoms and should contact NHS Direct or their GP for further advice if required. Most children will have a mild illness similar to normal seasonal flu, and will recover. If you are concerned about your child, please contact your GP for advice.

The school has consulted the Local Authority and, in accordance with the advice of the UK Chief Medical Officer and the Health Protection Agency, they have advised us on what action to take.

The advice is that if a case of swine flu in a school occurs, there is no need for the school to close and there is no need to keep your child off school unless they have flu-like symptoms.

If your child is unwell, it is important for them to remain at home until their symptoms have cleared. If started on antiviral treatment they need to stay at home until the treatment is complete. It is helpful if the school is aware of any diagnoses of flu that have been made by your GP. Please contact the school through the normal channels.

It follows that:

- **No child should stay at home unless they are actually displaying flu like symptoms.**
- **All children who are free from symptoms should continue to attend school.**

Attention to personal hygiene is important when trying to control these types of illnesses, by:

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

Please call NHS Direct on 0845 4647 or contact your GP if you require medical assistance.

Please check the school website for further updates.

Yours sincerely,

J F Hodkinson
Head Teacher