



Coombabah State High School

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A Community – Building Productive Partnerships & Pathways

28 July 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians,

H1N1 Influenza 2009 (Swine Flu)

You will be aware that Australia has now moved to the 'protect' phase to manage Pandemic (H1N1) 2009. This means that Queensland schools will no longer close automatically if a student has Human Swine Influenza. The testing and reporting processes have also changed and are outlined in the media release from Queensland Health, on the back of this letter.

In following Queensland Public Health recommendations, staff and students should stay at home if they have flu like symptoms. We will be contacting parents to collect students from school if they develop symptoms while at school to help contain the spread of Human Swine Influenza and other influenza in the school community.

The Department of Education and Training in conjunction with Queensland Health has updated its information on human swine flu to reflect the changed circumstances in schools. A comprehensive list of Questions and Answers for Parents and Carers can be accessed at <http://deta.qld.gov.au/alert/pdf/h1n1-influenza-a-faqs-parents.pdf>

Schools are encouraged to remain vigilant to the spread of infection and continue to strongly promote good hygiene practices. Ensure your child and those around them practice good hand hygiene, cover their nose and mouth when they cough and sneeze and dispose of tissues promptly and properly.

Please watch your child carefully for flu like signs and symptoms and consult your local doctor if you have any concerns. Most people make a rapid and full recovery, but to avoid the spread of influenza, we strongly urge you to keep your child at home if they are unwell.

Yours sincerely

Chris Kern
Principal



HUMAN SWINE INFLUENZA UPDATE – Tuesday 21 July 2009

- In line with Commonwealth Government practice, Queensland will no longer be reporting numbers of cases.
- Since the implementation of the PROTECT phase measures, laboratory testing has been targeted to vulnerable groups and moderate to severe cases of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 infection. Therefore, the number of confirmed cases is a reflection of cases tested and is not a reflection of the number of cases in the community.
- In Queensland, 53 people confirmed with human swine flu are hospitalised, including 19 in intensive care. A further 42 people in hospital are suspected as having human swine flu, with three of these in intensive care.
- Flu clinics are currently operating at Palm Island, Thursday Island, Cherbourg and Mount Isa.
- People in the vulnerable category are advised to seek medical attention as soon as they experience flu-like symptoms as treatment is effective if commenced within 48 hours of the onset of symptoms.
- They should avoid contact with people who have flu or flu-like symptoms.

Vulnerable Category

Vulnerable category = indigenous people of all ages, pregnant women, those with respiratory disease (asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease), heart disease, diabetes, renal and liver disease, obesity and immunosuppression.

The best way to protect people from this flu is to take proactive seasonal flu measures including:

- Staying home when you are sick
- Washing your hands frequently with soap and water or use an alcohol based hand gel
- Washing your hands prior to touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- When coughing or sneezing, cover your mouth and nose with disposable tissues which should be disposed of immediately
- Not sharing items such as cigarettes, glasses or cups, lipstick, toys or anything which could be contaminated with respiratory secretions
- Maintaining at least one metre distance from people who have flu-like symptoms such as coughing or sneezing
- Consulting your doctor if you have a cough and fever and follow their instructions, including taking medicine as prescribed
- If attending a medical practice or hospital Emergency Department, telephone beforehand so that they can arrange for you to be seen away from other people.

The above can be attributed to a Queensland Health spokesperson.

More information on swine flu is available from 13 HEALTH (13 432 584), Queensland Health website <http://www.health.qld.gov.au/swineflu/> or the Commonwealth Swine Influenza Hotline on 1802007.

Media contact: phone 3405 6025 or 3406 7632