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Swine Flu Advice note

Friday, 1st May 2009

Dear Parents and Carers

In light of the developing situation around Swine Flu outbreaks in Mexico, the US and other countries, we are sending you the following advice based on information available from the Health Protection Agency and NHS Cambridgeshire. For full details please refer to their websites below.

What is Swine Flu?

Swine Flu is a respiratory disease of pigs caused by type A influenza viruses. Outbreaks of Swine Flu happen regularly in pigs but people do not normally get the virus. However, human infections can and do happen. Typically human cases of Swine Flu happen in people who are around pigs but it is possible for Swine Flu viruses to spread from person to person.

At the moment there is still a low risk of contracting Swine Flu. Early indications are that in most cases outside of Mexico the symptoms of this illness are mild.

Reducing the Risk of influenza

General infection control practices and good hand hygiene can help to reduce the spread of all viruses.

- Cover your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, using a tissue (NOT handkerchief) when possible
- Dispose of dirty tissues promptly and carefully by binning them
- Maintain good personal hygiene, e.g. washing hands frequently with soap and water to reduce the spread of the virus from hands to face or to other people
- Clean hard surfaces (e.g. worktops, door handles etc) frequently using a normal cleaning product
- Make sure your children follow this advice

The school will be doing all it can to follow these guidelines. Families can support this message and practice at home.

Please do not send pupils to school who are feeling unwell. Efforts will be made to ensure staff and pupils go home if they become unwell during the school day.



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



If you or your child develop a feverish illness accompanied by one or more of cough, sore throat, headache and muscle aches, **stay at home and contact your GP by phone or seek advice from NHS Direct on 0845 4647.**

Emergency Planning

The school has in place an emergency plan in readiness for a critical incident including flu pandemic.

School Closure

If Swine Flu becomes pandemic a decision will be made as to whether our school will need to close. If schools in this area are advised to close this will be announced on the local radio stations (Hereward Radio 102.7 and Lite FM 106.8). The school may also need to be closed if staffing levels fall below a minimum level.

In the highly unlikely event that the school should have to close at very short notice parents and carers will be contacted using the contact information you have provided. Information will be posted throughout the closure on the school website.

Contact Information

Can you please make sure that the office has up to date contact details; for example, if you have been lucky enough to receive a new mobile phone recently or have changed jobs.

Should you require any further information do not hesitate to contact the school or the Swine Flu information line 0800 1 513 513

Yours truly,

Annette Baughan
Headteacher

Website references

www.hpa.org.uk

www.nhs.uk

www.direct.gov.uk/swineflu