



30th September, 2009

Dear Parent / Guardian,

H1N1 Flu Virus

I am writing to inform you that today we have had confirmation that two students at The English School have been diagnosed with H1N1 Flu Virus.

Action taken by the school

As you are aware we have already taken a number of measures to prevent the spread of the infection, including talking to students about good hygiene practices and providing all rooms with antiseptic gels, tissues and covered bins. We are also cleaning door handles and toilet areas regularly throughout the day. In addition to these measures, we have also blocked access to the water fountains in school and at the sports centre in order to prevent cross -infection. Please send your child to school with a water bottle as they will no longer be able to access water in school (although they can buy it from the canteen).

We have notified the authorities and are following their protocols. In order to keep them informed on a daily basis we need to know how many cases we are dealing with. If you suspect your child has the virus or if he/she is diagnosed with the virus, it is vital that you ring the main office at school and let us know and that you keep him/her at home for 7 days.

Information to note

Although H1N1 influenza does not appear to be any more dangerous than normal seasonal flu, and the children affected are not very ill, it has spread quickly and in some cases can be dangerous. Symptoms do not appear until at least one or two days after infection. A person who is infected is contagious and can give the virus to others for up to 7 days.

Symptoms

- Sore throat
- Coughing
- Headache
- Sneezing
- Diarrhoea
- Vomiting
- Breathing difficulties

More information

More information on the virus can be found on the World health Organisation website

www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html

and on the Cyprus ministry of health website

www.moh.gov.cy/moh/moh.nsf/All/D3B19E5271F39B1CC22575B0002913A7?OpenDocument

If the situation deteriorates and we have more cases amongst students or staff, I will let you know immediately and contact you with additional advice, information and the decisions that the school has taken. Please check our website daily.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any further concerns about this matter. In the meantime please urge your child to follow the strict hygiene codes that we have already put in place and to wash their hands regularly and dispose of all tissues in a sealed bin.

Yours Sincerely

Deborah Duncan

Head teacher