



Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2009

Dear Parents & Guardians,

**Re: H1N1 Influenza (Human Swine Flu) measures announced**

ACT Chief Health Officer Dr Charles Guest today announced new immediate exclusion measures for ACT school students prompted by the high prevalence of H1N1 Influenza in Melbourne. The announcement of the new measures follows yesterday's decision by the Victorian Government to raise its pandemic alert to a modified SUSTAIN level.

The new measures, which apply to primary and secondary school students, require that students returning to the ACT after visiting Melbourne will be excluded from school for seven days.

This follows the decision we made in May to exclude children returning from Mexico, the USA, Canada, Japan or Panama from school for seven days.

During this seven day exclusion period affected students should stay home, whether or not they have Influenza symptoms, and avoid other people as much as possible.

At present, there are only four cases of H1N1 Influenza 09 in the ACT so this recommended precaution extended to children attending daycare is to help reduce the further spread of the virus in Canberra.

We appreciate that this precautionary measure may be a little inconvenient however we ask you to respect these guidelines in the best interest of the health of all children, families & carers attending the centre.

If you become unwell with a flu-like illness, you can phone *healthdirect* 24 hours a day on 1800 022 222 for further advise. Alternatively, more information on the illness visit [www.health.act.gov.au](http://www.health.act.gov.au)

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on 02 6251 6565.

We thank you for your understanding and cooperation

Kind regards

**Renee Keelan**