

Thursday 18th June 2009

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Re: H1N1 Influenza 09 (Human Swine Flu) Update

The Federal Health Minister yesterday announced a new approach to the management of the H1N1 Influenza 09 virus that recognises that the community is dealing with a much milder disease than at first expected. As such, H1N1 Influenza 09 (Human Swine Flu) has been updated to 'protect.' The key aims of the protect phase are to:

- Identify people who may be at risk of more severe illness, in order to provide them with early treatment for influenza
- Treat people with moderate or severe influenza-related illness
- Control outbreaks in high-risk settings

This advice to move to the new PROTECT phase recognises that illness from H1N1 Influenza 09 (Human Swine Flu) is not as severe as originally described when the virus was first identified. The disease is mild in most cases, severe in some & moderate overall.

As such, the focus is on early identification and treatment of those with underlying medical conditions, and for all people who have moderate or severe disease. People who are sick will be strongly advised to stay home until the symptoms are resolved.

What does this mean for you & your child in relation to care & the current status of Human Swine Flu:

- All well children are allowed to attend day care
- No exclusions are in place even if the child has travelled to certain countries or is the first contact of someone with Swine Flu
- When a child is unwell, our normal illness & exclusion policy (if applicable) applies.

Further information is available from ACT Health website: <http://www.health.act.gov.au>

If you have any further questions with regards your child in care, please do not hesitate to contact me on 02 6251 6565.

We thank you for your understanding and cooperation

Kind regards

Renee Keelan