

Friday 29th May 2009

Dear Parents & Guardians,

The media is keeping Australians well informed about the spread of human swine influenza and NSW Health regularly provides helpful updates for schools and day care centres.

The most recent update gives advice on limiting potential exposure to human swine influenza by taking precautionary measures. The Australian Government has made human swine influenza a quarantinable disease. The NSW Government has made human swine influenza a **notifiable disease**.

In light of the advice, Universal Childcare's policy on responding to the outbreak is as follows:

- If families are traveling overseas at this time, it is recognised that parents are responsible for the health of their children whilst they are with them overseas. Australian public health and quarantine guidelines and / or restrictions will be applied to travelers by Australian authorities.
- No children with human swine influenza-like symptoms are to return to daycare until they are fully recovered from those symptoms as certified by their doctor.
- The incubation period of human swine influenza is thought to be up to seven days. People can be infectious with influenza for up to 24 hours before they develop any symptoms. This means that people who are infected could unknowingly spread the virus.
- To limit the potential exposure, Universal Childcare will exclude children who have been in countries that have had community transmissions of the virus. Currently the countries are Mexico, USA, Canada, Japan & Panama. This list will be continually revised. This 'exclusion' approach means that children returning or arriving from a country affected by human swine influenza will be instructed to remain at home for seven days (the maximum incubation period) following their travel before returning to daycare. This will allow time for any illness related to that travel to develop, and for prompt assessment and treatment to commence if required. If they remain in good health after seven days, the child can return to daycare.

These precautionary measures have been put in place well before the mid year school break so that you can make informed decisions and appropriate arrangements for you and your family before traveling overseas minimizing the potential of your child being excluded from daycare upon their return.

If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on 02 8968 1500.

We thank you for your understanding and cooperation

Kind regards

Alison Dunn