

Parent Communication from DEECD

As you would be aware, Victoria is now in a modified 'sustain' phase of its plan to manage the impact of H1N1 Influenza (Human Swine Flu) in our community.

This means that only children confirmed by a doctor as having the virus will be quarantined. Those sharing a house with a confirmed case will not be required to enter quarantine, unless they too are confirmed as having the virus.

Classes who may have been in contact with a confirmed case will no longer be quarantined, and schools will no longer be partially or fully closed.

Students who are feeling unwell should remain at home and not attend school. Students and families with flu-like symptoms are advised to seek medical attention and limit their contact with others.

If your child becomes ill at school, we will contact you immediately and ask you to arrange to collect your child. Please make sure that we have your up-to-date contact details.

It should be remembered, however, that the virus has so far been mild and can be compared to our normal winter flu.

Good general hygiene remains the best defence against the flu and families should continue to ensure children regularly washing their hands and cover their nose and mouth if sneezing and coughing. This practice is being reinforced with your children while at school.

If you have any specific concerns:

- Visit www.health.vic.gov.au
- Call the **Swine Influenza Hotline on 180 2007**
- Call **Nurse-on-Call on 1300 606 024** – for expert health information (freecall 24 hours, 7 days)
- Visit **your doctor (GP)** – if you have an influenza-like illness (fever, cough and fatigue).

The Department of Human Services is also continuing to ask parents of children returning from USA, Canada, Japan, Mexico and Panama to voluntarily keep their children home for seven (7) days from arrival back in Australia. This is a further precautionary measure to assist in managing the further spread of the virus.