



# The Knox School

A co-educational, independent school with a global perspective

PRE PREP TO YEAR 12

26 May 2009

Dear Parents,

I write to inform you of the school's processes with regard to dealing with the Human Swine Flu.

There are a number of confirmed cases of school aged children in Victoria, and we are in regular contact with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development for advice with regard to the situation.

While it is important to be vigilant about the Human Swine Flu, there is no need for undue alarm at this point. Good general hygiene is an important part of preventing the spread of the virus, and parents should be encouraging their children to wash their hands and cover their nose and their mouth with tissues if sneezing or coughing.

The school is putting in place the following process:-

- Children who present with cold or flu symptoms are sent to the health centre. Here, their temperature is checked and if it is over 38 degrees, the child is masked and isolated.
- Parents will then be called and advised to see their GP with prior warning to the GP being essential. The GP will assess and advise if containment at home is necessary.
- If the health centre receives more than one child with flu symptoms and a temperature over 38 degrees, the centre will be cleared of all other students, and the second child will also be masked and isolated.
- If we believe we have a situation of high concern, I will have an immediate conference and seek advice from the Department of Human Services as to whether we need to contain other students who may have been in contact with the suspected, contagious student.

The Department of Human Services is the responsible department for making decisions regarding voluntary quarantine of people affected by the influenza. If required, any school action (such as class quarantine, or school closure) relating to the virus, would be based on advice from the Department of Human Services.

From 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2009, DHS is asking parents of children returning from USA, Canada, Japan, Mexico and Panama, to voluntarily keep their children home for 7 days from arrival back in Australia. This is a further precautionary measure to assist in managing the spread of the virus.

Specific enquiries about the virus can be directed to any of the following:-

**The Swine Influenza Hotline Telephone:** - 180 2007

**Nurse on Call Telephone:-** 1300 606 024 – For expert health, information and advice 24 hours/7 days.

Please be assured that the school is being vigilant about this situation, and will keep you informed.

Yours sincerely

**Suzanne McChesney**

Principal

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