



Lane Cove Public School

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As you would be aware, swine flu is a major health concern. The Director-General of Education and Training sent the email below to all schools yesterday. Health and hygiene practices are being emphasised at our assemblies and I will endeavour to adequately maintain soap and paper supplies in the students' toilets.

Please note the simple precautions provided by the Director-General which I have highlighted. I seek your assistance in reinforcing these precautions.

This note has been sent via email as well.

R. Lamaro
Principal
29 April 2009

Dear Colleagues,

No doubt you have seen the media reports about a new form of influenza virus identified in the United States, Mexico and Canada. As you are aware, this virus is a type of influenza that is usually seen in pigs and has been named "swine influenza".

This message is to reassure you that according to NSW Health there have been no cases of swine influenza confirmed in New South Wales or Australia as of 27 April 2009.

I would also like to emphasise that NSW Health, the department and other relevant State and Commonwealth government agencies have comprehensive strategies in place to respond to and manage a situation like this. NSW Health is actively monitoring people who have recently returned from the countries where there have been infections.

NSW Health has made it clear that there is no need for normal school and TAFE institute operations to be interrupted. However, it is timely to remind staff and students about good hygiene practices and how to minimise the spread of infections. The Infection Control Guidelines can be accessed on the department's intranet on the Occupational Health and Safety Directorate site. They support the department's Infection Control Policy.

Simple precautions that prevent the catching and spreading of influenza include

- **washing your hands after contact with soiled tissues or any contact with nose or throat discharge**
- **covering your mouth if you cough**
- **if students or staff are sick, advise them to stay home.**

If you are aware of any students who have recently returned from the United States, Mexico or Canada, and are feeling unwell with any flu-like symptoms, please immediately advise their parents or TAFE students to contact their local GP or public health unit. NSW Health has asked that principals and Institutes also notify the case to the local public health unit.

If you would like more information about swine influenza, this can be accessed on the NSW Health website.

The department is maintaining regular contact with NSW Health in relation to swine influenza and will continue to update schools and institutes with any new information.

With my best regards,

Michael Coutts-Trotter
DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING
MANAGING DIRECTOR OF TAFE NSW
28 April 2009