

Robertsbridge Community College Swine Flu Update 20 January 2010

At present the College has no reported cases of Swine Flu.

We have a responsibility to report the number of cases to ESCC, the guidance used for reporting cases is as follows:

1. A parent/guardian/member of staff contacts their GP with a suspected case of Swine Flu.
2. The pupil/member of staff has been prescribed antivirals by their GP.
3. The parent/guardian/member of staff contacts the School to report and confirm the above.

If your child is off school due to the Swine Flu Virus please call our Attendance Line on 01580 881264 to report this. Thank you.

Please be assured we are doing all we can to ensure the health and safety of all associated with the College.

The school is working closely with the Health Protection Agency to monitor the situation.

If you or your child develops symptoms of flu-like illness the advice of the Health Protection Agency is to stay at home and contact your GP or NHS Direct on 0845 4647. Each case will be assessed and, if necessary, treatment will be provided.

Children with flu like illness are advised to stay off school for 7 days, or until they are fully recovered, whichever is longer.

If your child has an underlying medical condition such as chronic respiratory or heart disease, chronic renal or liver disease, diabetes or immunosuppression (such as treatment for cancer) they should be given antiviral treatment if they develop flu like symptoms. This can be arranged by ringing your GP.

Please note, we will not name individuals as there is no benefit to doing this because the virus is past containment and is at a treatment phase. Please see the latest guidance for schools provided below and for further information please click on the ESCC website hyperlinks:

Swine Flu A(H1N1) Update - 2 September 2009

The Government has launched a new self-care service, called the National Pandemic Flu Service. This service allows people to check their condition online at: www.pandemicflu.direct.gov.uk or over the telephone (0800 151 3100 or textphone 0800 151 3200).

The Department for Children, Schools and Families has also issued detailed guidance in relation to swine flu. The latest guidance is available via:-

<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/educationoverview/flupandemic/>

What should a school do if there is a case of influenza?

- People who have swine flu symptoms and who have been prescribed antiviral medicine will be given a unique access number and told where their nearest antiviral collection point is. They should then ask a flu friend - a friend or relative who doesn't have swine flu - to go and pick up their antivirals from their nearest antiviral collection point. The flu friend must show their own ID as well as that of the patient.
- If a member of staff or student has flu-like symptoms, they should be advised to remain at home and follow the procedure above.
- It is particularly important that vulnerable groups contact their GPs if they have flu-like symptoms. These groups include:-
 - Children with underlying medical conditions such as chronic respiratory or heart disease, chronic renal or liver disease, diabetes or immunosuppression (such as treatment for cancer)
 - Staff who are pregnant or immunosuppressed
 - Those with a condition that suddenly gets much worse,
 - Those with a condition that is still getting worse after seven days (five for a child).
- Those with a sick child under one year old
- The school should contact the Schools Customer Services Team (01273 482511) if they have a confirmed case of swine flu. All local authorities are required to submit a daily report on the number of schools with confirmed cases and details of any class/school closures.
- The Health Protection Agency has prepared a letter template that schools may wish to use to inform staff and parents of cases of swine flu within the school.
- Schools are asked to remain vigilant in their cleaning procedures and encouraging staff and students to maintain good basic hygiene in order to control the spread of infection,. Section 8 of the Model Influenza Pandemic Plan provides more detail on infection control.