

22nd June 2009

Dear Pupil/Parent/Guardian/Colleague

H1N1 influenza

I am writing to inform you that there has been a confirmed case of H1N1 influenza in a pupil who attends Cranford Community College. As has been the pattern elsewhere to date, the student has a very mild illness, is taking Tamiflu and is a lot better already.

Working with the Health Protection Agency and Hounslow Primary Care Trust (PCT) we have undertaken a risk assessment of the school; taking into account contacts, social activities and sickness absence records of other pupils & staff (particularly with influenza-like illness).

Initial investigations show a number of pupils with hay fever and colds (which have some similar symptoms) but this currently appears to be an isolated case of H1N1 flu involving one student.

We will continue to monitor for influenza-like illness in the school, anyone thought to be unwell will be isolated and parents/guardians will be contacted to make arrangements for their child to go home.

For any pupils who develop symptoms (including a raised temperature, and possibly cough, runny nose, muscle and joint pain or headache), parents/guardians should contact their family doctor **by telephone** for advice. Anyone with these symptoms should isolate themselves immediately, limit their contact with others and **must inform the school immediately** by telephone or via the website.

It is important to remember that flu is usually spread from one person to another when an infected person has symptoms.

General infection control and good hygiene can help to reduce transmission of all viruses, including H1N1 flu. This includes:

- Covering your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, using a tissue at all times and disposing of it in a bin straight away after first use. **Catch it. Kill it. Bin it.**
- Maintaining good basic hygiene, for example washing hands frequently with soap and water to reduce the spread of the virus from your hands to face or to other people.
- Cleaning hard surfaces (such as door handles) frequently using a normal cleaning product.
- **Making sure your children follow this advice.**

Since 6th May 2009, the school has been taking the following precautions:

- Anti-bacterial hand wash & tissues provided to staff to deal with coughs and sneezes in the classroom and in school
- Additional cleaning regime in place (Additional day cleaners disinfecting door handles, hand rails, light switches, telephones, etc.)
- Emergency plan in place (on website)
- Early detection and reporting structure in place
- Development of Fronter to allow learning to take place from home

The following additional precautions are now being put in place:

- Adoption of '**One Metre One Hour Strategy**' (See below)
- Securing additional supplies of hand wash & tissues for the longer term
- Staff/ student /parents awareness campaign
- Acceleration of Fronter development
- Issue of anti-bacterial wipes for some shared equipment
- A budget set aside to meet any additional costs

The school's response must remain **proportionate to the risk** which currently remains low but is reviewed daily.

'One Metre One Hour Strategy'

In addition to '**Catch it, Kill it, Bin it**', people are at less risk of contamination if they spend less time in close contact.

Everyone can take responsibility for reducing their risk by ensuring that in all activities they do not stay close (less than 1 metre) to the same person or people for longer than 1 hour.

At Cranford, we have reviewed all events and devised plans to minimise the risk by implementing this one metre/one hour strategy.

The only activity which is difficult to manage in this way is trips to the theatre where there is fixed seating and difficulty in moving around each hour. As a further precaution therefore, we have had to postpone theatre trips for the present but we will also keep this under review and apologise for any inconvenience this may cause. There will be no financial loss to parents as a result of this precaution.

Please check the school website daily for further updates.

For further information in relation to H1N1 influenza and Tamiflu you can contact:

1. www.nhs.uk
2. The national H1N1 Flu information line - 0800 1 513 513
3. NHS Direct: 0845 4647
4. Your GP by phone.

If the position or our advice should change you will be notified of this immediately. Updates will also be placed on the school web site.

Yours sincerely,

K. Prunty
Headteacher

R. Owen
Chair of the Governing Body

