



Shetland Islands Council

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BRAE HIGH SCHOOL
"Wirk tagidder wi ean anidder"

31 / 8 / 09

Swine Flu Update Information

Dear Parent / Carer

The Scottish Government published updated guidance on infection control for schools, this is accessible via the following link –

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/health/AvianInfluenza/PandemicFlu/planning/infection-control>

The most important measures are to keep symptomatic children and pupils out of school and early years settings, and to maintain good hygiene practices – washing hands with soap and hot water and using tissues when sneezing or coughing.

They have produced a list of frequently asked questions, some of which I have included below.

Q There have been cases of suspected swine flu in my child's school (or nursery) but it has remained open, should I send my child in?

A While schools remain open, you should continue to send your child to school - unless they have any flu-like symptoms. You would be advised if the school were to close and what to do then.

Q What happens if a child becomes ill at school or nursery?

A You will be contacted and asked to collect and take them home. You should then contact your GP or NHS 24 (on 08454 242424)

Q What can I do to help?

A Make sure that the school or nursery has your up-to-date contact details - address, phone number (home, work and mobile) and any e-mail details - in case they need to get in touch with you.

Q What if parents keep pupils who are well, off school?

A While schools are open parents should send their children to school unless they have any symptoms. Unless the children are 'home educated' parents have a legal responsibility to do so. They should be urged not to keep healthy children off school.

Q My child has a history of other medical problems and I believe they are at greater risk should they catch swine flu. Is it safe for them to go to school while there have been cases of suspected swine flu there; are there other precautions I should take?

A Children should continue to attend school unless they have any flu-like symptoms. If you have particular concerns about your child's medical condition and vulnerability to swine flu and its effects, you should discuss these matters both with your GP and with the school.

Q What should I do if my child (or indeed anyone else in the household) shows any signs of flu-like illness?

A If your child is unwell, or you are concerned about their health in any way, you should contact your local GP or NHS 24 (on 08454 242424). You should keep them at home and tell the school, nursery etc.

Q When should my child return to school or nursery?

A Not while they still have any symptoms. Once all the symptoms have passed and they feel well enough to return, they can do so.

Q Is hand-washing and the use of tissues important?

Yes, very, and as much in the home as in the school or nursery. Frequent hand-washing and use of tissues to cover coughs and sneezes is important in helping to slow the spread of swine flu among children and young people, because they are more likely than others to catch and spread it.

More information is available via www.hps.scot.nhs.uk

Brae High School is implementing a number of preventative measures in accordance with national guidance. One of which is:

If a pupil develops flu like symptoms whilst at school, or comes to school with flu like symptoms we will immediately isolate the pupil and would ask for your support in collecting your child at the earliest possible opportunity.

If you have any further questions or concerns over this matter please consult the web address above or contact me at the school.

Yours sincerely

Colin R Kirkness