



Oakhyrst Grange School

INFLUENZA (FLU) VIRUS POLICY

The following policy applies to any severe outbreaks or pandemics of the Influenza Virus such as H1N1 ('Swine Flu') or H5N1 ('Avian Flu').

The Board of Management and the Headmaster will, at all times, follow the advice from Government Agencies regarding the outbreak of a serious flu outbreak and its possible consequences. The School reviews information posted by such agencies as the Health Protection Agency (HPA) and all information sent to the School by the Independent School's Association (ISA) as well as information from other agencies.

In the event of a serious flu outbreak occurring, it is important that both parents and members of staff reassure pupils.

The School will retain a sufficient supply of the following items at all times:

- soap, tissues, hand cleaning gel and signage regarding hygiene

In the event of a serious outbreak of the flu virus, the following action will be taken as required and where appropriate:

In the event of illness

- Any child or member of staff who feels unwell should not come into school and should see their GP, if appropriate. This is the School's normal policy on pupil and staff illness, however the School would like to emphasize to parents that keeping their children away from school is particularly important in this instance to avoid the spread of the flu virus.
- Pupils or members of staff who have come into contact with children or adults who are known to have the flu virus should remain at home until they received advice from their GP.
- Parents of any pupil diagnosed with a specific flu virus (rather than a general flu virus) and any member of staff diagnosed must contact the School immediately.

Public Health advice and precautions

- Good hygiene practice will be followed in school. This includes educating everyone to use tissues when sneezing and to make sure that all used tissues are put in bins. Where possible, everyone will be encouraged to wash their hands frequently to prevent the transfer of any virus from hands to face. The School would like to encourage parents to re-enforce this message at home and to encourage their children to bring tissues into school.
- The cleaning of the School will be maintained at as high a standard as possible. This will include wiping down commonly used surfaces with anti-bacterial wipes.
- Coach companies who provide coaches for trips and excursions will follow all local and central government guidelines.
- Where travel involves the School's minibus, the School undertakes to follow its usual high standards of hygiene as well as any guidelines laid down by local authorities and government agencies.
- School trips will continue to follow Government guidance as to whether a trip should take place. If a trip is cancelled, parents and pupils will be informed.
- School fixtures and visits to the School by other groups from outside the school will be reviewed.

Closing the School

In the event that the School is advised to close by a Government agency to prevent the spread of the virus, the following procedure will take place:

- The Headmaster, in consultation with the Board of Management, will make the decision whether to close the School.
- A message will be posted on the School's website:
www.oakhyrstgrangeschool.co.uk.
- If a decision to close the School is made during the school day, pupils will be informed and arrangements will be made with parents and carers to collect their children. A letter will be sent home with each child explaining the situation and requesting parents to keep abreast of developments on the School's website.
- In the event that a decision is made outside of school hours, a message will be posted on the website and the 'Telephone Pyramid' system will be used to contact as many parents as possible. Those parents who turn up at school will be met by a member of staff and asked to return home.
- Staff should continue to attend school as normal unless advised otherwise.
- In the event that there are no members of staff on site, parents should refer to the website (which can be accessed remotely for the purpose of updating information).

Useful Information

- DCSF – www.dcsf.gov.uk
- Department of Health – www.dh.gov.uk
- Health Protection Agency – www.hpa.org.uk