

AISV has received the following advice from the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development.

Influenza H1N1 (Human Swine Flu) Update

Victoria is now in a modified 'Sustain' phase of its plan to manage the impact of this strain of influenza in our community.

The virus has so far been mild and can be compared to our normal winter flu.

There is no longer a need to quarantine everyone who has been in contact with a confirmed case of H1N1 Influenza. **Only confirmed cases will need to be quarantined for three days and will all continue to be given the most appropriate treatment. Household members may continue to be provided with Tamiflu, but will not be quarantined.**

The Victorian Government will focus on those most vulnerable to influenza: those in aged-care facilities, special developmental schools and hospitals.

What does this mean for schools and early childhood providers?

Schools will no longer be closed when cases are confirmed. Settings such as special developmental schools and childcare centres will be managed on a case-by-case basis.

Students, teachers, and classes that are in quarantine, as a result of being in contact with a confirmed case of the virus, should return to school as soon as practicable.

Schools and early childhood providers that are currently closed due to H1N1 Influenza can reopen.

Schools and early childhood providers originally scheduled to reopen June 4 or June 5 will reopen June 5. Schools and early childhood providers originally scheduled to reopen June 9 or later will reopen June 9.

Health officials are continuing to request that parents of children returning from the USA, Canada, Japan, Mexico and Panama voluntarily keep their children home for seven days from arrival back in Australia. This exclusion does not affect teachers or childcare workers, who continue with normal duties. This decision is based on information available so far about how the virus spreads.

Your best defence against flu

Wash your hands. Wash them often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. This is the most effective thing that you can do to fight the flu over the coming months.

What else can you do?

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze

- Throw the tissue in a plastic-lined rubbish bin after you use it

- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread that way.

If you are unwell with flu-like symptoms

- Stay home from work, school and childcare and limit contact with others

- Call your GP for medical advice

The Victorian Government will continue to monitor the spread and severity of the virus through the community. Dedicated flu clinics continue to operate across the state to support our emergency departments.

Need to find out more?

Visit [.health.vic.gov.au](http://health.vic.gov.au)

Call the Swine Influenza hotline on 180 2007

Call Nurse-on-Call on 1300 60 60 24 for expert health information (freecall 24 hours, 7 days)

Information about H1N1 Influenza is available on the AISV website at [://www.ais.vic.edu.au/](http://www.ais.vic.edu.au/)

Regards

Peter Roberts

Assistant Director, Management Services