

Swine flu

Swine Flu Advice note

In light of the developing situation around Swine Flu outbreaks closer to home, we are enclosing a leaflet entitled 'Swine Flu and Schools Advice for Parents' from the Health Protection Agency and NHS Cambridgeshire. www.hpa.org.uk

What is Swine Flu?

Swine Flu is a respiratory disease of pigs caused by type A influenza viruses. Outbreaks of Swine Flu happen regularly in pigs but people do not normally get the virus. However, human infections can and do happen. Typically human cases of Swine Flu happen in people who are around pigs but it is possible for Swine Flu viruses to spread from person to person.

Reducing the Risk of influenza

General infection control practices and good hand hygiene can help to reduce the spread of all viruses .

Cover your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, using a tissue (NOT handkerchief) when possible

Dispose of dirty tissues promptly and carefully by binning them

Maintain good personal hygiene, e.g. washing hands frequently with soap and water to reduce the spread of the virus from hands to face or to other people

Clean hard surfaces (e.g. worktops, door handles etc) frequently using a normal cleaning product

Make sure your children follow this advice

The school will be doing all it can to follow these guidelines. Families can support this message and practice at home. We will be following the 'Catch It, Bin It, Kill It' advice, and have ordered extra supplies of tissues, bin bags, soap, and anti-bacterial cleaner.

Please do not send pupils to school who are feeling unwell. Efforts will be made to ensure staff and pupils go home if they become unwell during the school day.

If you or your child develop a feverish illness accompanied by one or more of cough, sore throat, headache and muscle aches, **stay at home and contact your GP by phone or seek advice from NHS Direct on 0845 4647.**

School Closure

If Swine Flu becomes prevalent in our area a decision will be made as to whether our school will need to close. If schools in this area are advised to close this will be announced on radio and television, but we will also use our contact cascade to alert you. The school may also need to be closed if staffing levels fall below a minimum level. Information will be posted throughout the closure on the school website at www.burroughgreen.com

Contact Information

Obviously we rely on accurate information about where, and how, you can be contacted in the event of emergency. If your details have changed since the last data collection sheet was issued in April, please will you update us by sending your home telephone number, mobile number, address, and alternative contact in case we cannot get in touch with you to office@burroughgreen.cambs.sch.uk

Distance Learning

In the event of closure we will provide details of suitable educational activities that children can follow at home. This information will be available on our website. This will include links to other useful websites. We would ask that the children keep a folder, or scrap book of their work during this time and return it school once we reopen.

If you do not have internet access please let the school know so that if needed we can provide paper copies of the work for your children.

Should you require any further information do not hesitate to contact the school or the National Flu Pandemic Service 0800 1 513 513 www.pandemicflu.direct.gov.uk

As we expect the full effects of the spread of the disease to be felt in the autumn this letter will be reissued at the start of next term as a general reminder. In the meantime have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Yours sincerely
(K. Archer)