



in reply please quote:

GE09/0014

21 May 2009

CIRCULAR TO PRINCIPALS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS IN VICTORIA

Dear Principals

Re: Influenza H1N1 (Swine Flu)

This is to provide you with current advice about H1N1 Influenza (Human Swine Flu). This information has been provided by Dr Sharon Goldfeld, Principal Medical Adviser, Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD).

Background

Victoria has confirmed two new cases of Influenza H1N1 – two boys aged 12 and 10 – taking to three the number of cases in the same family.

Concerns from staff or parents about swine flu should be referred to any of the following:

- **Call the Swine Influenza Hotline: Telephone 180 2007**
- **Call Nurse-on-Call: Telephone 1300 606 024**
 - for expert health information and advice (24 hours, 7 days)
- **Call your doctor (GP)**
 - If you have an influenza-like illness (fever, cough and fatigue) and have travelled to Mexico or California, Arizona, New Mexico or Texas in the past seven days.
- **Visit the Victorian Government Health Information Website**
 - for up-to-date information for schools, children, parents and the community:
<www.health.vic.gov.au>.

Standard good general health hygiene practices should continue to be practised, such as regular hand washing and covering nose and mouth if sneezing and coughing.

If staff or children are unwell, they should seek medical attention and avoid public places and close contact with others.

Action

All questions and concerns from staff and parents about swine flu should be directed to the resources outlined above.

Standard hygiene and health practices should apply across all services.

The Department of Human Services (DHS), in consultation with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) and the Catholic Education Commission of Victoria Ltd (CECV), will continue to monitor the situation and will provide further advice as additional information becomes available.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Elder', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Stephen Elder
DIRECTOR