

General Practitioner Alert
H1N1 Influenza 09 (Human Swine Flu)

Current Situation

As of 2000hrs, 20 May 2009 there have been two new cases of human swine flu identified in Victoria, taking to three the number of cases in the same family.

The two boys aged 12 and 10 returned on the same flight with the rest of their family from Los Angeles on 12 May. All three boys remain at home where they are getting the care that they need because they are not ill enough to be hospitalised.

Public health officers from the Department of Human Services have contacted parents, and attended the school providing advice and antivirals.

A similar rollout of antiviral medication has not been deemed to be necessary at the secondary school attended by the eldest boy. However, parents of students at the secondary school are being asked to contact their local GP if they are concerned about their child's health.

The Department of Human Services is working closely with the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development on this matter.

Recommended Advice

Adhering to normal flu season hygiene procedures is vital. This means regular hand washing, covering your nose and mouth if you sneeze or cough, and stay home if you are sick.

Please call your GP if you have a flu like illness (fever and cough and fatigue) and have travelled to Mexico, USA or Canada in the past seven days.

Please call your local hospital if you are seriously unwell with flu like symptoms and have travelled to Mexico, USA or Canada in past seven days.

Current border control measures at international airports, remain in place and community surveillance measures are continuing.

This remains a timely reminder for all organisations to look at their business continuity plans.

For the most up-to-date information :

- * Visit www.health.vic.gov.au
- * Call the Influenza Hotline on 180 2007 or
- * Call Nurse-on-Call on 1300 606 024 – for expert health information and advice (24 hours, 7 days)
- * Health professionals who want to report a suspected case call 1300 651 160

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