

09 July 2009

Dear Parents,

Important Information about Swine Flu

As you are no doubt aware, the number of cases of swine flu being diagnosed across the country is increasing. Below is a summary of the advice we have been given by the Health Protection Agency and other local health services about dealing with any cases we may have at Trinity Court.

In line with the current “treatment only” policy in the UK, school closures and the distribution of antiviral medicines for prevention are no longer normally recommended due to the virus being widespread within the community. This means that people are likely to be exposed to the virus repeatedly in their every day lives so such precautions would now be ineffective.

The most important advice we have been given is that children who have signs and symptoms of swine flu be kept at home until they have recovered and are free of symptoms. If children are prescribed antiviral drugs for treatment they should stay at home until they have finished the course. This is to avoid spreading the infection as much as possible. If you are concerned about flu-like symptoms you should phone NHS Direct on 0845 4647 for further advice.

There are various measures that people can use to reduce the spread of infection. General infection control practices, good respiratory and hand hygiene can help to reduce transmission of all viruses:

- Covering your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, using a tissue when possible.
- Disposing of dirty tissues promptly and carefully.
- Washing your hands frequently with soap and water to reduce the spread of the virus from your hands to your face or to other people.
- Cleaning hard surfaces (such as door handles) frequently using a normal cleaning product.
- Making sure your children follow this advice.

Further information is also available online on www.nhs.uk, or through the Swine Flu information line on 0800 1 513 513. Alternatively, visit the Health Protection Agency's website at www.hpa.org.uk/swineflu

Potential Impact on Trinity Court's Service

Our website has been updated to show our current “flu status”. This status can be seen on any www.trinitycourt.co.uk pages. The “status bar” can be found at the right of our web pages, towards the top. We have graded our “flu status” into four bands: Green (no cases reported), Amber (cases have been reported), Red (our service is disrupted) and Black (total closure of Trinity Court). For a more detailed information, along with links to relevant health websites, please click the link. Please visit our website regularly for up to date information about the virus and its impact at Trinity Court.

Yours sincerely,

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