

Swine Flu (H1N1) Virus: FIS/ISW Family Responsibilities

Our FIS/ISW community is highly mobile– our families are traveling all over the world for business and family reasons. With the news about the rather quick transference of the swine flu from Mexico to the USA and now to the European continent– our intention as a school is to respond quickly by defining key responsibilities we must all embrace within our school community.

Please know that we use a committee of experts, including regional health officials, CDC (Centers for Disease Control) and WHO (World Health Organization) contacts and the US Department of State in our effort to define a very clear pandemic protocol that can keep our school safe.

Please read carefully the family responsibilities below. We are asking that you as a family immediately implement the following directives:

1. WHEN FLU SYMPTOMS EXIST WITHIN YOUR FAMILY:

- Any family member who complains of flu symptoms (swine flu symptoms are the same as seasonal flu virus) must stay away from school, as must all other members of the family. Consult doctor.
 - **Symptoms:** fever, lethargy, lack of appetite, coughing, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea
- A member of the family having flu symptoms must be reported to the school.
- Regardless of whether a person has traveled to infected areas as announced by the WHO, if flu symptoms exist within the family, then all members of the family must refrain from coming to any FIS/ISW campus. Return to campus is only allowed with a doctor's permission note in hand.

2. WHEN IN DOUBT:

- If anyone in your family has either cold or flu symptoms, please ensure you call the FIS or ISW school nurse for guidance. Our goal is to maintain the school's learning program and hopefully will be able to do so if we maintain strong communication and remain vigilant about ensuring family members stay at home rather than coming to school, even if the illness or discomfort is uncertain.
- (Nurse's Phone #: 06171-2024-242)

3. TRAVEL:

- If a family member has traveled to and from a *specific* area in the world where an outbreak of swine flu exists, then all members of the must be especially vigilant for any signs of flu symptoms.
- If no flu symptoms exist within the family, then students may come to school. The FIS/ISW nurse must be contacted by the family and thus inform the school that a member of the family has been potentially exposed to swine flu. The school reserves the right to ask the family not to send members of the family to school, depending on the travel circumstances and the extent of the swine flu infection rate around the world.

4. FURTHER INFORMATION

- Use the CDC link below to review general information about the swine flu (H1N1) virus:

<http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/pdf/keyfacts.pdf>

We will maintain daily contact with health officials and monitor the CDC and WHO websites. If it appears that the swine flu outbreak will have an immediate effect on our school community, then we will inform you of a more aggressive set of steps toward addressing safety and seeking to continue teaching and learning. We have a very specific protocol in the event of a declared pandemic and will be quick to ensure you are fully aware of our next steps.

Clearly I am sensitive to not overstate the issue or create unnecessary concern about what we are all reading in the newspaper. Yet, I hope you agree that we want to be prepared– and the above information is meant to confirm that we have outlined specific approaches to safety, if needed.

*Allow me to restate: **The above family responsibilities go into effect as of now and should remain so until further notice.** Everyone must help to keep each other safe.*

All Good Wishes.

Mark Ulfers