



Lycée International de Los Angeles

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SWINE FLU WATCH

October 2nd, 2009

Dear Parents:

We would like to make you aware that we have our first reported case of H1N1 virus from an elementary student in Los Feliz. The family is following our policy of staying home. A thorough cleaning of the child's classroom will be undertaken over the weekend.

Please remember that students with two or more flu symptoms (fatigue, fever, runny nose, sore throat, cough and body aches) should be kept home. *For ANY type of fever, please keep your child at home for 24 hours after the fever breaks.*

As you know, LILA keeps abreast of the latest news and bulletins related to the spread of this disease and follows recommendations from Center for Disease Control (CDC). We know that just as with other schools, there may potentially be other cases of H1N1 at LILA, but with your help we can keep these cases to a minimum by continuing to follow the prevention recommendations of the CDC as explained in the excerpt from the CDC website provided here:

Recommended school responses for the 2009-2010 school year

- **Stay home when sick:**
Those with flu-like illness should stay home for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever, or signs of a fever, without the use of fever-reducing medicines. They should stay home even if they are using antiviral drugs.
- **Separate ill students and staff:**
Students and staff who appear to have flu-like illness should be sent to a room separate from others until they can be sent home. CDC recommends that they wear a surgical mask, if possible, and that those who care for ill students and staff wear protective gear such as a mask.
- **Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette:**
The new recommendations emphasize the importance of the basic foundations of influenza prevention: stay home when sick, wash hands frequently with soap and water when possible, and cover noses and mouths with a tissue when coughing or sneezing (or a shirt sleeve or elbow if no tissue is available).
- **Routine cleaning:**
School staff should routinely clean areas that students and staff touch often with the cleaners they typically use. CDC does not believe any additional disinfection of environmental surfaces beyond the recommended routine cleaning is required.
- **Early treatment of high-risk students and staff:**
People at high risk for influenza complications who become ill with influenza-like illness should speak with their health care provider as soon as possible. Early treatment with antiviral medications is very important for people at high risk because it can prevent

hospitalizations and deaths. People at high risk include those who are pregnant, have asthma or diabetes, have compromised immune systems, or have neuromuscular diseases.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT PARENTS OF CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN DIAGNOSED WITH THE SWINE FLU INFORM THEIR CAMPUS ADMINISTRATION IMMEDIATELY SO THAT WE MAY TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION.

On a final note, as many of you may have already heard, a vaccine is available for the H1N1 virus and is highly recommended for high risk. The CDC website reports:

September 28, 2009

Here's a flu fact for you: the federal vaccination program for H1N1 flu is VOLUNTARY, just like the seasonal flu vaccination program. Top federal health officials highly recommend that people get vaccinated, and they stress that the vaccine is the best defense against the 2009 H1N1 flu. People with underlying health conditions like asthma or diabetes, health care workers, pregnant women, caregivers for infants under six months of age, and children and young adults from six months to 24 years of age are especially encouraged to participate in this vaccination program. The vaccine will be available to anyone who wants it, and the decision to get vaccinated **is up to each individual.**

I again appreciate your cooperation and understanding in helping the school follow these measures.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth Chaponot', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Elizabeth Chaponot, Ph.D.
Head of School

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