



Pandemic (H1N1) 2009

Useful Checklist of key actions that should be taken by Schools and Colleges

[Taken from the Department of Education and Science's *Information Sheet for Schools, Colleges and Centres of Education on Influenza A(H1N1)v*]

(This should not be regarded as an exhaustive list but as complimentary to existing best practices in school relating to health, safety, and hygiene and existing procedures for notifying parents and students of decisions regarding school/college closures that occur at short notice).

1. Keep up to date on advice issued by the health authorities.
2. The Health Service Executive has already posted information to every household in the country on the Influenza A(H1N1)v. Schools/colleges can supplement this information by promoting good awareness throughout the school/college community.
3. Place posters on hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette up in the school/college. Updated material and posters to assist educational facilities is available at <http://www.hse.ie>
4. Make staff and students aware of the symptoms of Influenza A(H1N1)v.
5. Make sure the school is part of the local areas emergency plan. See Departmental Circular PBU04/04.
6. Update a list of key contacts in the event of a closure (and re-opening).
7. Review procedures for communicating with staff and families in the event of a partial or full closure.
8. Consider any arrangements that may be required for students with special needs.
9. Plan, where possible, for staff absences and consider at what level a school/college may need to close where sufficient staff are not available.
10. Identify the arrangements to be made for looking after pupils/students showing symptoms while waiting for parents to collect them.

Where can I get further information?

Department of Health and Children, that provides timely and regular advice and information – <http://www.dohc.ie>

The Health Protection Surveillance Centre – <http://www.hpsc.ie>

The Health Service Executive Swine Flu website – <http://www.swineflu.ie>

Department of Education and Science – <http://www.education.ie> and the link http://www.education.ie/servlet/blobServlet/des_swine_flu.htm

See Department of Education and Science circular letter 47/2009 entitled “*Sourcing Information and Responding to Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 within Primary and Post-primary Schools*” (dated 20 August 2009).

In relation to schools, the general position regarding school openings and closures is set out in department circulars 11/95, M29/95, and 107/2007.