



The Edinburgh **Rudolf Steiner** School

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Pandemic Flu (AH1N1) Policy

This policy has been drawn up using advice and information from the Scottish Government's Schools Directorate (Schools Division) and the Care Commission.

Rationale

Since the summer of 2009, the Government has revised its strategy for managing AH1N1 (swine flu) from a phase of 'containment' to a phase of 'treatment.' While it is accepted that the number of cases of flu has risen over the last week or so, and is likely to rise further through the autumn and winter, there is no evidence that the virus is becoming more harmful or virulent.

Scottish schools, including ours, have been advised to maintain, as far as possible, 'business as usual.' The extent to which this aspiration is possible will depend upon adequate pupil attendance and appropriate levels of staffing. The Care Commission in particular has issued guidance for registered children's services which sets out clear and prudent steps that parents and providers can take to support 'business as usual' while ensuring that children are protected. This advice forms the basis of our policy and will inform an appropriate Business Continuity Plan which will be approved by the College of Teachers.

In the event of high levels of absence it should be noted that it may be necessary to temporarily combine classes of a similar age group. The Management Group will continue to monitor the advice issued by the Scottish Government, the Care Commission, SCIS and the Local Authority. We will inform parents where appropriate via the Tuesday Notice or, where there are dramatic changes to the advice we receive, by letter to all parents. Up to date information can be found on the Scottish Government's website:

<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/health/AvianInfluenza/mexincanswineflu>

Policy

- For the duration of the 'treatment' phase of the AH1N1 (swine flu) pandemic, the Edinburgh Rudolf Steiner School will, as far as possible, remain open.
- Any decision to close the school will only occur following advice from the appropriate body (such as the Care Commission or SCIS) or as a result of a decision taken by the College of Teachers or the Board of Trustees due to insufficient staffing or significant levels of infection.
- If a staff member or pupil is presenting symptoms of pandemic flu, it will be our policy to 'isolate' that individual. In practice, this means that parents should keep pupils at home while they are feeling unwell. The advice of a GP should be sought before such pupils return to school. If symptoms are presented during school hours, pupils will be looked after by the office staff or Management Group and separated from other pupils until a parent or carer can be contacted to collect them and take them home.

- Parents who suspect themselves of suffering from flu should make alternative arrangements to drop off or collect their children from school.
- The school will ensure adequate supplies of soap and water in toilets and tissues in classrooms.
- A significant degree of additional support will be provided for students on examination courses who have suffered absence while the school remains open.
- The Scottish Government's suggestion that, should schools close, they consider maintaining educational continuity via 'remote learning' (online lessons) has been noted. The Upper School will give due attention to the feasibility of providing remote learning for examination subjects. However, given the extent of the school's computer resources, and the school's philosophy in respect of screen exposure, remote learning would not seem an appropriate or desirable method for delivering the Lower School curriculum or main lessons. Advice on 'home educating' out of the Waldorf Framework will normally be available from The College of Teachers on request.
- When and if the Scottish Government embarks on a vaccination programme, any decision to participate in that programme will be entirely a matter for individual parents, pupils and members of staff.
- The school will continue to update parents when official guidance changes. Updates will take place via the website, Tuesday Notice or by letter to all parents.

The Management Group, September 28th 2009