

# **Pandemic (H1N1) 2009**

**Pandemic H1N1 (commonly known as Swine Flu)** is a new flu virus which has been circulating worldwide since April 2009. The new flu virus can spread easily from person to person.

Following advice from the **Department of Education and Science**, the **Department of Health and Children** and the **Health Service Executive**, the school has put procedures in place to help prevent the spread of this pandemic flu. All children will be spoken to in the coming days about the procedures to be observed. The co-operation and support of all members of staff, parents and children is vital in this endeavour. The school will continue to operate normally unless advised by the Local Department of Public Health to do otherwise.

Parents are requested to co-operate with the following measures:

- Provide children with pocket size paper tissues in their school bag.
- Teach your child how to cover their nose and mouth with a paper tissue when sneezing or coughing. The tissue should be used only once and then disposed of in the covered general waste bin in the classroom which is emptied daily.
- Ensure your child knows how to wash their hands with soap and water following sneezing or coughing.
- Teach your child how to cough or sneeze into the inside of their elbow in the event of no tissue being available.
- Provide children with an individual small towel for drying their hands (a face cloth should suffice). This should be kept in the child's school bag in a small plastic bag or wash bag and should not be shared with anyone else. Please ensure that the towel is changed and washed regularly.
- Keep your child at home if he/she is showing signs of having the flu.
- Inform the school immediately if your child is currently absent with Swine Flu or if your child is diagnosed with Swine Flu at any future date.
- For further information on Pandemic H1N1 check out  
[www.swineflu.ie](http://www.swineflu.ie)      [www.hse.ie](http://www.hse.ie)      [www.hpsc.ie](http://www.hpsc.ie)  
[www.dohc.ie](http://www.dohc.ie)      [www.dfa.ie](http://www.dfa.ie)

The following measures have been put in place:

- Staff in the school will discuss the flu virus as a matter of urgency and the procedures being adopted to prevent its spread. All staff will be vigilant for the symptoms of flu in the children in their care.
- Posters will be displayed around the school in the coming days to raise awareness levels of the flu virus.
- All children will be spoken to in the coming days about ways to prevent the spread of the flu.