

## LETTER FOR ALL FAMILIES

Dear Parents and Guardians

About two weeks ago I wrote to you and placed information on our website about the H1N1 Influenza (Human Swine Flu) virus.

As a precaution to help prevent further spread of the virus, on 25 May 2009, the Victorian Government asked that all children returning from the US, Canada, Japan, Mexico and Panama be kept at home for seven (7) days prior to returning to child care, kindergarten or school.

At this stage, the exclusion does not affect teachers or child care workers. This decision is based on information available so far about how this virus spreads.

While neither the World Health Organisation nor the Australian Government have recommended against travelling to these countries, the virus is spreading within these countries to an extent that warrants extra precaution to help stop the virus spreading from returned travellers.

For more information, see: [Victorian Government Health Information](#)

### General good health practices

Families are encouraged to continue with standard good general health hygiene practices, such as ensuring your children undertake regular hand washing and cover their nose and mouth if sneezing and coughing. This practice is being reinforced with your children while at school. See [www.health.vic.gov.au](http://www.health.vic.gov.au) for advice on washing hands and covering coughs and sneezes.

If your children are unwell, you should seek medical attention and avoid public places and close contact with others.

### More information

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If you have any concerns please:

- Call the Swine Influenza Hotline on 180 2007
- Call Nurse-on-Call on 1300 606 024
- Contact your local GP
- Visit [www.health.vic.gov.au](http://www.health.vic.gov.au) for Victorian Government Health Information
- Department of Education and Early Childhood Development [Frequently Asked Questions](#)