



School Procedures regarding H1N1 influenza

Dear Parents

We welcome you back to school with a new policy that we have put in place for dealing with the H1N1 influenza virus in light of the possibility of an epidemic during the winter months. Please read the attached policy statement, which will apply at ISM from 3 September, and the notes below which summarise our approach to this situation.

1. No doubt you have followed news about the virus and its impact in a number of countries to date. We encourage you to keep learning about it and we can provide some generic resources to help. Brochures and videos in English are available from:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/documents/digitalasset/dh_100746.pdf and

<http://www.nhs.uk/video/pages/medialibrary.aspx?Id=6e875479-245f-45bf-a9bb-713cc7d8f6e5&Uri=video/2009/January/Pages/CatchitBinitKillit.aspx>

Resources in Italian can be found at:

<http://www.ministerosalute.it/dettaglio/phPrimoPianoNew.jsp?id=250> -

<http://www.ministerosalute.it/dettaglio/principaleFocusNuovo.jsp?id=13&area=influenzaA&colore=2>

<http://nuovainfluenza.blogspot.com/>

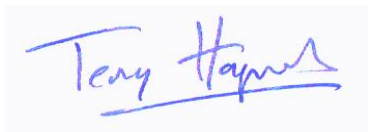
2. We will hold a series of meetings for parents across the school to help you learn more about the virus and the way we are planning to deal with its impact. The first of these will be in the Primary School in via Paravia on 15 September at 9:15.
3. From the beginning of term we will have disinfectant sprays and gels available in every classroom for students to clean their hands when appropriate during the school day
4. We recommend that you purchase disinfectant tissues that are widely available in supermarkets and encourage sending your son or daughter to school with them during the day. Just having them available in schoolbags is a big help.
5. We will be teaching the children the importance of hand-washing and cleanliness right from the beginning of term – please reinforce this message at home.
6. If any of your family members develops symptoms of influenza then please do not send your child to school until you have clarified with a doctor the nature of the illness and are sure that there is no risk of spreading the infection. If any child develops flu symptoms at school we will call to ask that you take them home as soon as possible.

7. Arrange for all family members to be vaccinated against both H1N1 and the regular seasonal influenza become available – this is expected to be in late October.

Please help us and everyone in the community by following these simple rules and by keeping informed through news, media and the school medical services in the coming months. We strongly believe that there is no need to panic or exaggerate the situation we are facing. The vast majority of cases of N1H1 lead to full recovery in a few days, but we still intend to do everything possible to reduce the risk and spread of infection, so besides the norms that will be required by the Italian authorities we will put further measures in place to protect you and your children.

We ask for your full support. Please contact our medical service if you have any questions.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Terry Haywood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

T. Haywood
Headmaster
1 September 2009