

## Public Health

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Dear Parent/Guardian

### **Influenza A (H1N1)**

You may have recently become more concerned about Influenza A (H1N1) as it becomes more widespread in the local community.

Originally in the early stages of trying to contain the disease, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde in line with national policy closed some schools, nurseries, classes or school years where there were confirmed cases of Influenza A (H1N1). In addition, we offered a drug called tamiflu to all children in the class attended by the affected case(s) in an attempt to prevent further cases in the class/school. However, in recent weeks it has become clear with the rise of more cases in the community that closing nurseries or schools will not now have any benefit in containing the disease.

Recently the policy about school closure and giving tamiflu to whole classes has changed nationally. This is due to the observation that children given tamiflu sometimes felt unwell due to nausea and vomiting and secondly as the virus is already affecting people in the community with no links to schools, the public health benefit associated with school closure and giving tamiflu is limited.

Our current policy is therefore that every confirmed case of Influenza A (H1N1) in a pupil is assessed by public health to ascertain whether there is any evidence of spread within a school. With such a high number of cases in the community, the risk of catching the virus solely from attending school or nursery is no greater than elsewhere outside the school. For this reason, we are no longer closing schools or classes routinely with confirmed case(s) and we are only offering tamiflu to a small number of close contacts. Only under exceptional circumstances ie evidence of spread within the school, will consideration be given about closing an entire class and/or school

I would also like to reassure you that for the vast majority of people and especially for fit healthy young people this is a mild disease from which cases recover well.

If your child is well, they can continue to attend school or nursery and attend any summer activities planned for the holiday period which is fast approaching. However, if your child is unwell, we urge you to keep them at home especially if they begin to show signs of flu-like symptoms. If you are concerned about your child's health, please contact their GP. We also recommend that you and your children are extra vigilant during this time of flu outbreak and wash your hands often with soap and water, always carry tissues, use once and bin after use. Remember to CATCH IT, BIN IT, KILL IT.

I understand that this situation must be of some concern for you but I would like to reassure you that the chances of your child developing the infection are low. In addition, the vast majority of people who have contracted the virus in recent weeks have had mild symptoms only.

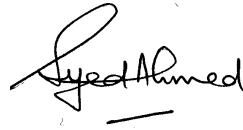
Please contact your GP or NHS24 08454 24 24 24 if you have any concerns.

Further information is available here: [www.nhsggc.org.uk/H1N1](http://www.nhsggc.org.uk/H1N1)

Yours faithfully



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