

**“Swine ‘flu”, influenza type H1N1**

All parents will be aware of the recent worldwide outbreak of swine ‘flu, influenza type H1N1. No pupil at Chandlings or any school within the Cothill Educational Trust has been reported as having the virus or having had contact with anyone who has.

All Trust schools remain open but the situation is being constantly monitored. Parents will be kept informed by telephone or email of any changes to the situation. The website will be updated with the latest information. We have taken advice on the possible pandemic from the Department for Children, Schools and Families, the NHS and the Health Protection Agency.

The symptoms of swine ‘flu are similar to those of ordinary flu but may be more severe and cause more serious complications. They are:

- Sudden fever (over 37 degrees)
- Sudden cough
- Respiratory problems

They may also include:

- Headache
- Tiredness
- Chills
- Aching muscles
- Limb or joint pain
- Diarrhoea or stomach upset
- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- Sneezing
- Loss of appetite

The NHS is currently advising that anyone who has travelled to Mexico and has flu-like symptoms should stay at home and contact a health professional. Any member of staff, pupil or parent displaying symptoms of a flu-like illness should not come into school until they have been examined by a Doctor. Please inform the school immediately if this is the case.

All school cleaning programmes have been reviewed to ensure that all surfaces including computer equipment, telephones, door handles and toys are regularly and thoroughly cleaned with anti-bacterial cleanser. Preventing the spread of germs is the single most effective way to combat the spread of disease such as swine ‘flu.

All children are being reminded of the following and we ask parents to reinforce the message:

- Ensure that hands are washed regularly with soap and water
- Use tissues to cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze
- Put used tissues in the bin as soon as possible.
- Sharing equipment such as pens or toys should be discouraged.

The most helpful information on the current situation can be found at:

- **DirectGov:** [www.directgov.uk/swineflu](http://www.directgov.uk/swineflu)
- **Health Protection Agency:** [www.hpa.org.uk](http://www.hpa.org.uk)
- **NHS Information line:** 0800 1513513 [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)

In the event of a pandemic being confirmed by the W.H.O., we will issue further guidelines to staff and parents.