



Human Swine Influenza Policy & Procedure

1. Introduction and Purpose of the Policy

Human Swine Flu (HSI) is a strain of the influenza virus that usually affects pigs, but which may also make people sick. HSI is an illness that causes symptoms similar to those of the regular human seasonal flu. Symptoms include a fever, nasal congestion, sore throat, cough and aches. The purpose of this policy is to set out how the College will attempt to deal with the exposure of students and staff to HSI.

2. Scope of the Policy

This Policy applies to all staff and students (Years 3 – 12) of St Aloysius' College, including co-curricula coaches and casual employees.

3. Exclusion Practice and Notification of Overseas Travel

The College requests staff and families travelling overseas between June and November 2009 to register their travel with the College, through Mr Sam Di Sano, Deputy College Principal, who will maintain a record of destinations. Preferred method of communication is via email to sam.disano@staloyisus.nsw.edu.au. *The existing requirement for families to write formally to the College Principal, Fr Chris Middleton SJ if intended travel is during term time, still applies.* To limit the potential exposure of HSI the College has decided to accept the recommendations of NSW Health and adopt a student and staff exclusion practice to minimise the risk of exposure for the College community. This exclusion practice requires students and staff returning, or arriving, from certain countries affected by HSI to remain at home for seven days (the maximum incubation period) before returning to the College. The exclusion policy allows time for any illness related to travel, including HSI, to develop, and for prompt medical assessment and treatment to commence. If the student or staff member remains well for the seven day exclusion period they may then return to the College.

4. To Whom This Exclusion Practice Will Apply

The exclusion practice will only apply to students and staff who have travelled to or are arriving from countries that have had *community or school transmission* of HSI. Currently the countries with community or school transmission are Mexico, USA, Canada, Japan and Panama and, as of 3 June the greater Melbourne

area of Victoria. This list is subject to change, based on advice from government agencies. Should additional countries be identified as having community or school transmission the College will notify parents via the newsletter, the Gonzagan. The College may also wish to discuss possible exclusion of staff or students even if they themselves have not travelled to affected areas, but other members of their immediate family have.

5. School of Interest

Human Swine Influenza has been added to the list of a notifiable diseases communicated via the Gonzagan (issue 13/09 15 May 2009). A confirmed case of HSI in a student or staff member who has attended the College whilst infectious will result in the College being identified as a 'school of interest' by NSW Health, who in turn will investigate each HSI case and then make a decision on how to proceed. NSW Health may decide to place those with immediate contact with the infected person into home isolation and provide them with an antiviral treatment. Alternatively NSW Health may decide on a partial (e.g. only the infected persons' class or year), or complete closure of the College. The decision to close the College would not be made lightly. Co-operation with the College policy and NSW Health guidelines and decisions is important for public health and safety.

6. Standard Hygiene Practice

All students and staff should continue good hygiene practices to minimise the spread of all infections, including HSI. The following practices will assist in reducing the spread of infections;

- Cover your mouth and nose if you cough or sneeze;
- Washing your hands after contact with soiled tissues or any contact with nose or throat discharge;
- Stay at home and seek medical attention you feel unwell.

7. Contact Details

If you have any questions in relation to the College's policy please contact Mr Sam Di Sano at the College on 99221177. Additional information about HSI can also be accessed on the NSW Health website

http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/publichealth/swine_flu.asp/

Sam Di Sano, Deputy College Principal

29 May 2009