

Deputy First Minister & Cabinet  
Secretary for  
Health and Wellbeing  
Nicola Sturgeon MSP

Cabinet Secretary for Education and

Parents and carers of all school and  
nursery children



17 August 2009

Dear parent or carer

## SWINE FLU

We are writing to you at the start of the new term to reassure you about the swine flu situation. Schools have reopened, as planned, for the new term. Although there have been new cases of flu in Scotland over the summer holiday period, the welcome news is that the numbers have been fewer than originally predicted. We will of course continue to monitor the situation and the way the pandemic develops. Local authorities will take any decisions - and would keep you well informed of that - should it be necessary to close a school or nursery due to staff shortages (as a result of flu) or on health or any other grounds.

For the great majority of children, swine flu is still a mild illness. However, those of you with concerns about children with medical conditions that make them particularly vulnerable to infection should discuss these both with your GP and with the school.

Meantime, we would continue to stress the importance – in the home, as at school or nursery – of good health and hygiene. Hand-washing and proper use of tissues (covering coughs and sneezes) is especially important for all children and young people. We are reinforcing this in schools and nurseries by issuing appropriate information packs.

The advice on what to do if you or anyone in your household develops a flu-like illness and you are concerned over their symptoms remains - stay at home and seek medical advice either by contacting your GP or NHS 24 on 08454 242424.

Answers to your most frequently asked questions will be regularly posted on the *Parentzone* website – [www.ltscotland.org.uk/parentzone](http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/parentzone). The 'swine flu' section of Councils' own websites are also very useful sources of local information and advice.

Our main priority and efforts continue to focus on how best we can protect the health and wellbeing of all children and young people. We appreciate your understanding and support.



Nicola Sturgeon MSP  
Cabinet Secretary for Health & Wellbeing



Fiona Hyslop MSP  
Cabinet Secretary for Education & Lifelong Learning



Councillor Bob Myles  
Leader of the Administration  
Angus Council