



THE ROYAL BALLET SCHOOL

Swine Flu Policy

Swine Flu is a new strain of influenza A (H1N1). The symptoms are similar to those of ordinary flu.

The Royal Ballet School recognizes that as a boarding school it could have a significantly higher attack rate of swine flu than that within the general local community. We also recognize that as a boarding school we face logistical tasks in the dispersal of students diagnosed with this virus. We will follow the advice from the WHO, the Health Protection Agency, DCSF, ISI and our regional NHS Director of Public Health in forming our plans, preparedness, reaction and response.

Minimizing the risk of an infection within the school

We will endeavor to educate staff, students, parents and visitors regarding the following good hygiene practices to help reduce the transmission of the virus:

- ✓ Wash hands frequently with soap and water
- ✓ Clean hard surfaces frequently using a normal cleaning product
- ✓ Cover nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing using a tissue where possible
- ✓ Dispose of dirty tissues promptly and carefully
- ✓ Use antibacterial hand wash when entering the school and communal areas within the school

Swift diagnosis of swine flu

The School Nurse and House Parents are able to recognize swine flu symptoms. These are a high temperature over 38 degrees and two or more of the following:

- unusual tiredness
- headache
- runny nose
- sore throat
- shortness of breath or cough
- loss of appetite
- aching muscles
- diarrhea or vomiting

As with any sort of influenza the symptoms may vary in degree and duration. If a case is suspected this can be confirmed by using the National Pandemic Flu Service telephone or on-line assessment.



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In the event of a case in school

- We will aim to treat rather than contain
- The pupil will be isolated appropriately
- Parents of the child with swine flu or suspected swine flu will be informed immediately
- If possible parents will be asked to collect their child and for the child to remain at home until they are fully well and symptom free
- If a pupil from an overseas family contracts swine flu and has no guardianship arrangement in the UK or the guardian is unable to take the pupil, the school will continue to accommodate the pupil and to care for them. The pupil will be isolated appropriately
- Staff will be informed
- The Head of Lower School and the Academic and Pastoral Principal will inform parents if there are a high number of cases
- We may need to close the school if the numbers are so high that our staffing resources are not adequate to care for the children
- In the event of a closure we will provide pupils with academic work to complete and an exercise programme
- If we are forced to close during a public examination period we will take steps to notify the examination boards and to provide alternative arrangements

Contingency planning

- We will review our plans regularly in response to advice from the organizations listed in paragraph 1.
- We will ensure that our surgery is well stocked and that House Parents have the equipment that they need
- We will not stockpile medication and equipment
- We will not stockpile food
- We will ensure that parent and staff contact details are up to date
- We will maintain a list of contacts at the local Health Protection Unit who will help us to assess the situation within the school and advise on further measures.
- We will maintain an up to date cover time-table to ensure that lessons are covered in the event of staff absence
- We will liaise with our House Services provider to ensure that staff absence is covered and that high hygiene levels are maintained

PH-A
28/01/10

This document will be revised in line with changes in best practice and legislation. These changes will be notified to all concerned. Questions or comments should be directed to the appropriate member of the Senior Management Team.