

COMMUNICATIONS NOTE TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF ALL STUDENTS

23 June 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian

7-DAY LEAVE OF ABSENCE (LOA) FOR STUDENTS RETURNING FROM H1N1 AFFECTED COUNTRIES

1. As part of measures to reduce the risk of Influenza A (H1N1) among students when school reopens on 29 June, the Ministry of Education (MOE) will issue Leave of Absence (LOA) to all school staff and students returning from affected countries¹ on and after 22 Jun, so that they do not attend school activities for seven calendar days upon their return to Singapore. This will reduce the risk of H1N1 spreading within the school community and in Singapore when school reopens. Students on LOA will be given home-based learning packages by their teachers.

2. In addition to LOA for affected students, we will also implement other precautionary measures. We will set up stations at our school gate to screen students and staff when they come to school. We will advise those who have returned from an affected country on or after 22 Jun, but have somehow missed the earlier notification, that they are on LOA and should go home. Those who are unwell will also be asked to go home. We will also institute twice-daily temperature taking, and closely monitor our students. In addition, school assemblies will be suspended and CCAs scaled down during the first week after school reopens in order to minimise congregation of school staff and students. Recess will also be staggered. There will also be tighter school security. All visitors will be screened for travel history and temperature taking before they can enter our school.

3. The additional measures are part of the precautionary measures that our school has already implemented to prevent the spread of the virus among our staff and students. We will continue to maintain cleanliness of our school premises, remind students of the importance of personal hygiene and monitor students for signs that they may be unwell.

4. We seek your cooperation and understanding in the school's efforts to implement these measures. Let us work together to keep our schools open, and safeguard the health of our students. In the event that your child registers a fever during his/her daily temperature check, we seek your understanding to bring him/her home to rest. Please also encourage your child to practise good hygiene at home. With your support, we hope that every child can develop such good habits that will last them through life.

¹ As of 23 Jun, affected countries are Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, Dominican Republic, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Panama, Philippines, Spain, Thailand, United Kingdom and United States of America. Parents are advised to refer to the MOH website (<http://www.moh.gov.sg>) on Mon 29 Jun for updates.

Submission of Travel Declaration Form

5. Before the close of Term 2, the school has obtained your child's travel plans for the June holidays. However as the travel plans might have changed, all parents are required to re-submit the travel declaration form when school re-opens. (You should have received this form by mail on Wed 24 June. If you did not receive one, please call the school general office and we will send one to you).

6. Please complete the form and submit it to the school by one of the following methods:

- (i) If your child has not been to any of the affected countries, or has returned from affected countries before 22 Jun and is well, please submit the form by hand through your child when he/she returns to school on Mon 29 Jun; OR
- (ii) If your child is returning/ has returned from affected countries on and after 22 Jun, please submit the declaration form by mail/email to the school.

7. The Influenza A (H1N1) affected countries are those considered by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as having community spread and/or are known to have exported cases. As of **23 Jun**, these countries are **Argentina, Australia, Canada, Chile, Dominican Republic, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Mexico, Panama, Philippines, Spain, Thailand, United Kingdom and United States of America**. Parents are advised to refer to the MOH website (<http://www.moh.gov.sg>) on Mon 29 Jun for updates.

8. Our students' safety is of utmost concern to us. MOE is in close consultation with MOH and will activate other appropriate measures should there be a need to. We will continue to keep you updated of new developments.

9. Please contact us if you need any clarification. We will be happy to assist you.
