



IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT SWINE FLU

30th April 09

Dear Parent or Guardian,

I give below the text of a letter I have been asked to circulate in connection with the Swine Flu outbreak. Be assured that the various authorities are working closely together to provide important information and advice. A copy of the advice given below is also displayed on the schools website together with information about hand washing – www.combepaffordschool.co.uk

“Torbay Council is working with the Health Protection Agency, Torbay Care Trust and partners following the earlier confirmation of a case of swine flu in a pupil at Paignton Community and Sports College. As a precautionary measure, acting under advice from local health protection experts, the college will remain closed until Monday 11 May.

Those considered to be potential close-contacts of the pupil confirmed with swine flu are being offered antivirals as a precautionary measure and advised to monitor their health for flu-like symptoms. There is no need for these individuals to isolate themselves from the community unless they show symptoms.

The definition of close contacts is based on interim guidance issued by the Health Protection Agency which states that individuals exposed to a probable or confirmed case within a distance of one metre or less and for longer than one hour should be offered antivirals as a precautionary measure.

General infection control practices and good respiratory hand hygiene can help to reduce transmission of all viruses, including the human swine influenza. This includes:

- *Covering your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, using a tissue when possible.*
- *Disposing of dirty tissues promptly and carefully.*
- *Maintaining good basic hygiene, for example washing hands frequently with soap and water to reduce the spread of the virus from your hands to face or to other people.*
- *Cleaning hard surfaces (e.g. door handles) frequently using a normal cleaning product.*
- *Making sure your children follow this advice.*

Further information on swine flu is available on the Health Protection Agency's website at www.hpa.org.uk or by contacting NHS Direct on 0845 4647

Yours sincerely

Mike Lock

Headteacher