

North West



Tarleton High School
Hesketh Lane
Preston
PR4 6AQ

Health Protection Agency

**Cumbria & Lancashire
Health Protection Unit**

Our Ref: JA/CB(Tarleton130709)

13 July 2009

1st Floor, York House
Ackhurst Business Park
Foxhole Road
Chorley
PR7 1NY

Tel +44 (0)1257 246450
Fax +44 (0)1257 246451

www.hpa.org.uk

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: Swine Flu

A member of staff from Tarleton High School in Preston was clinically diagnosed as suffering from swine flu.

Health Protection Agency has reviewed the situation regarding swine flu in Central Lancashire and has concluded that there is emerging evidence that swine flu is now present and spreading within the community. The recommendation is that the school should **not** be closed as this would fail to reduce spread within the community or to those attending school. However, measures are being taken to reduce the spread within the school. Accordingly, the children who have symptoms of flu will be assessed and the need for treatment determined. Experience in the UK has shown us that most people who suffer from swine flu have a mild illness and recover fully within 7 days.

Children who are suffering flu-like illness should stay off school for a minimum of 7 days from the beginning of their symptoms and not be sent back to school until they are fully well.

The advice from health experts is that all pupils and members of staff should continue to attend school as normal, providing they are well. Anyone who has a fever and flu-like symptoms should stay at home and contact NHS Direct on 0845 4647 or their GP by phone for advice.

Everyone can play their part to slow the spread of the virus by practising good hygiene:

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Astbury". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Dr John Astbury
Consultant in Health Protection