

*St. Mark's*  
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8th January 2011

## NOTICE TO PARENTS / GUARDIANS RE: **Influenza (Flu) Information For Parents**

Dear Parents,

We are now experiencing our annual flu season and, as had been expected, this year the predominant flu virus is the H1N1 virus also known as swine flu. In an effort to reduce any concerns or worries you might have about Swine Flu, we would like to inform you of the procedures we have put in place in the St. Mark's Senior School. These procedures are following the Department of Education & Science Circular letter 47/2009.

The following include some of the steps we have taken to reduce cross infection.

1. **Raise awareness:** Will will encourage good prevention awareness by putting up posters on respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene. Teachers will teach lesson plans issued by The H.S.E. on respiratory etiquette and hand washing. The catch phrase “**Catch it, Bin it, Kill it will be taught**”

### **2. Hand Sanitisers:**

We are equipping all classrooms with Alcolgel Sanitisers. Each child will sanitise their hands with this gel when entering their classroom each morning.

### **3. Hand Hygiene:**

Children should wash their hands with soap and water. Hand drying facilities must not be shared between people. Therefore we are requesting that each Parent provide their child with a small towel (face cloth size) in a wash bag / zip lock bag. This towel must be kept in the wash bag / zip lock bag at all times in the child's schoolbag. It will be necessary to change this towel on a daily basis. Soap will be provided but each child will use their own towel to dry their hands after washing.

### **4. Respiratory Etiquette**

Children and staff to cover their mouth and nose with a paper tissue when coughing or sneezing. If no tissue is available they should cough or sneeze into the inside of their elbow. We would ask you to insure that your child has a packet of tissues in their bag at all times. A tissue should be used only once and disposed of quickly and carefully in the dustbin. Waste, including used tissues, may be disposed of in the normal way. There is no need to take special precautions in the handling of such waste.

Principal: RICHARD WALSH  
Deputy Principal: CLODAGH WHAN

5. **The Board of Management** will continue to monitor the situation and will make appropriate changes as necessary.

**6. Frequently Asked Questions:**

Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 (Swine Flu). We would ask you to have a read of this H.S.E. leaflet. See link on school web site [www.saintmarks.ie](http://www.saintmarks.ie)

**Summary**

Please help us by

- **Reminding and showing your child about regular and proper hand washing**
- **Provide your child with a packet of tissues daily and ensuring the use of tissue when coughing / sneezing and its correct disposal.**
- **Provide a hand towel for your child in their school bag and ensure it is replaced daily with a clean one.**

Yours sincerely,

*Richard Walsh*

Principal