



## THE ORCHID SCHOOL

6<sup>th</sup> August, 2009

### CIRCULAR REGARDING SWINE FLU

Circular regarding Swine Flu- Information, preventive measures and approach to deal with the epidemic

Dear TOS Family members (Children, parents, teachers, service providers.....)

This circular comes in the wake of the epidemic swine Flu that is taking Pune by storm.

Myself and Shilpa Di attended the meeting organized by PMC officials on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2009. This meeting mainly addressed the Principals of Pune schools regarding the measures the schools need to take at this hour.

Today a meeting with PTA working committee and Class Parent Volunteers was called to take further course of action.

The decision that emerged was that school will remain open. Future decisions about school closing will be taken as per developments in the next few days.

**However, Parents may take a personal call on keeping their child home for a few days/ weeks. Some guidelines for this is given below. Same goes with using school transport facility.**

Lot of information regarding the Swine Flu, its symptoms, what should the patient and family do and how to administer treatment plan is already making rounds – in news papers, our school website, electronic media and whole school & classroom meetings. So we won't repeat it in this circular.

Some of the highlights of our meeting with PMC officials and with our PTA working committee members & Parent Volunteers are being placed in front of you.

#### **Who are the high- risk group – potential to develop (not necessarily become the patient)**

- If travelled abroad last 8 days
- If near an affected ( diagnosed) patient within 3 feet distance
- Staying in the area, building, school, neighborhood that has reported cases of Swine

#### **Symptoms:**

- **High Fever that doesn't respond to regular Crocin and broad spectrum anti-biotic in three days. Fever doesn't come down**
- **Throat Pain, Cold, cough, head ache ( all symptoms like Influenza Flu)**
- **Body Ache**
- **Diarrhea and / or vomiting**
- **Irritability**
- **Dullness and less alertness**



### Some more precautionary measures –

- Send a handkerchief everyday with your child. Teacher and parent will teach the child to fold handkerchief carefully.
- Send tissue paper and teacher and Parent will teach child to dispose it well.
- Wash hands with soap regularly in school and at home.
- Soap is available in wash rooms and lunch room. You may send paper soap with your child.
- Trim nails and keep self clean.

### Do's & Don'ts

- If above symptoms seen, take the patient to your regular medical practitioner. If your doctor refuses to see the patient, look for another supportive doctor. Do not rush to Naidu Hospital.
- Stay at home, rest, sleep, eat, and drink well. Increase the immunity of the body.
- Wash hands regularly with soap.
- Use tissue paper / clean cloth/ handkerchief while sneezing and coughing. Dispose them / wash them carefully.
- Masks only necessary if attending to patient or working in high risk areas
- Masks are not available in the market, so it is not possible to make that mandatory. As soon as masks are available we will make them compulsory.
- Avoid overseas trip, holidays if possible
- Minimize socialization, inviting guest, going to parties, tuition classes, swimming, malls, movie halls.....
- Do not send child to school even with slight fever. Home isolation and rest mandatory
- Do not get pathological test done in any other hospital than the Government approved test centres.
- Do keep your child home if you feel it is a necessary preventive step. As long as you want to. But then, don't send the child down to play with other kids as well.
- Don't worry about attendance during this period. School will be flexible in its approach. To this effect, Shikshan Mandal too is sending a circular.
- You have to make up for the missed lessons, if any, during your child's absence.
- ASSET tests for Classes III to VII have been postponed.
- Class tests and assessments for Classes I and II and Pre- Primary are postponed till next month.

### What does home isolation mean –

- Isolation means your child must be indoors, at home only.
- Do not send child down or out to play. Do not send for after school and week end classes or tuitions.
- Avoid any social activity – visiting malls, cinema, parks, shopping, celebrations....



### **TOS Initiatives:**

- Follow Guidelines given by the Government
- Class Teachers, Parent Volunteers and PTA members to keep track of absenteeism, call on each parent in their designated group and counsel them
- Strictly send back children with mild symptoms of flu – cold , cough, fever
- Not to close the school or class unless situation demands. It takes a gestation period of 8 days before the symptoms manifest.
- There is no guarantee that the entire city will be cleaned off the Flu virus if the whole city is closed down. The focus is on providing appropriate treatment, isolate the patient, meticulously follow the hygiene measures and not react in panic.
- Take all our service providers on board regarding this
- Regular preventive measures like fumigation, pest control and disinfecting the school premises already happening. Fumigation, as per PMC Health department is not really effective for Swine Flu preventive measure.
- Keep contact with Government officials, Health Department and also inform them if any cases come to our notice.
- Invite their representative to talk to Parents if the situation requires that input.
- We will invite health official on Monday for a general meeting to address parents regarding the epidemic. Message to this effect will be confirmed via circular, SMS and website.

We will keep our website updated, so regularly visit it.

**Lakshmi Kumar**  
**Director**

**Shilpa Solanki.**  
**Principal**