



Telford & Wrekin

C O U N C I L

Parents/Guardians of Telford & Wrekin Children

Julia Almond

Corporate Director

Children and Young People  
Civic Offices, P.O. Box 440,  
Telford TF3 4WF

DX 712122 Telford 5

www.telford.gov.uk

**Contact:** Julia Almond  
**Telephone:** (01952) 385007

**Fax:** (01952) 385000  
**Minicom:** (01952) 385009

**Our Ref:** MY/KS  
**Date:** 7<sup>th</sup> July 2009

Dear Parent/Guardian

As you are no doubt aware, there are increasing numbers of cases of swine flu being diagnosed across the country. I thought I would take this opportunity to share with you the advice we have been given by the Health Protection Agency and other local health services about dealing with any cases we may have in a school or early years setting.

In line with the current treatment only policy in the UK, school/early years setting closures and the distribution of antiviral medicines for prevention are no longer normally recommended due to the virus being widespread within the community. This means that people are likely to be repeatedly exposed to the virus in their every day lives so such precautions would now be ineffective.

The most important advice we have been given is that parents of children who have signs and symptoms of swine flu is to contact your GP or NHS Direct on 0845 4647, and are asked to keep your children away from school/nursery/playgroup until they have recovered and are free of symptoms. If children are prescribed antiviral drugs for treatment, they should also stay at home until they have finished the course. This is to avoid spreading the infection as much as possible. Any siblings that are not showing flu like symptoms and have not been diagnosed by your GP or NHS Direct should continue to attend school/nursery/playgroup.

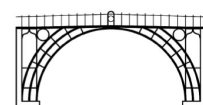
It is also very important that your child's school/early years setting has your most up to date contact details. Should your child show symptoms of swine flu whilst at school/nursery/playgroup, then the expectation would be that contact would be made with the named parent/guardian/carer and that your child would be removed from the site as soon as is practical. In the meantime your child would be kept in an isolated environment so as to prevent any potential spread of the virus.

There are various measures that people can use to reduce the spread of infection. General infection control practices and good respiratory hand hygiene can help to reduce transmission of all viruses:

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



Telford – Home of the  
Ironbridge Gorge  
World Heritage Site



Further information is also available online on [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk), or through the Swine Flu information line on 0800 1 513 513. Alternatively, on the Health Protection Agency's website at [www.hpa.org.uk/swineflu](http://www.hpa.org.uk/swineflu).

Yours sincerely,



Julia Almond  
**Corporate Director, Children & Young People**



Telford – Home of the  
Ironbridge Gorge  
World Heritage Site

