

**From ministerial letter – circulated to all parents from Nicola Sturgeon, Fiona Hyslop and Marilyne MacLaren (17 August 2009)**

'For the great majority of children, swine flu is still a mild illness. However, those of you with concerns about children with medical conditions that make them particularly vulnerable to infection should discuss these both with your GP and with the school.

Meantime, we would continue to stress the importance – in the home, as at school or nursery – of good health and hygiene. Hand-washing and proper use of tissues (covering coughs and sneezes) is especially important for all children and young people. We are reinforcing this in schools and nurseries by issuing appropriate information packs.

The advice on what to do if you or anyone in your household develops a flu-like illness and you are concerned over their symptoms remains - stay at home and seek medical advice either by contacting your GP or NHS 24 on 08454 242424.

Answers to your most frequently asked questions will be regularly posted on the *Parentzone* website – [www.ltscotland.org.uk/parentzone](http://www.ltscotland.org.uk/parentzone).

Our main priority and efforts continue to focus on how best we can protect the health and wellbeing of all children and young people. We appreciate your understanding.'

**Press release quote (from FACe article 9 September 2009)**

City Education Leader Marilyne MacLaren said: "It is still important that we do everything possible to stop the spread of swine flu but everyday school life will continue as normal. Staff will be looking out for symptoms and encouraging pupils to take simple precautions. Everyone should catch a cough or a sneeze in a tissue and then put it in the bin - catch it, bin it, kill it."

**From Advice note to schools (17 August 2009)**

The latest information from the Scottish Government is that it is expected that the vaccination programme will be delivered from October onwards. Priority groups have been identified. There will be a public advertising campaign soon. The intention is to offer the vaccine to the entire population. The Scottish Government stresses that no vaccine will be used without scientific and medical advice that it is safe to do so.

In relation to 'flu like' symptoms, monitoring has been undertaken from the start of the Session. For the week commencing 30 August 2009, the absence rate for staff was 7 (0.18%) and for pupils, was 114 (0.5%). Data was collected for 22116 pupils.