



THE AMERICAN SCHOOL IN SWITZERLAND

At TASIS, we are tracking the facts and official advisories regarding the incidence of H1N1 influenza locally, regionally, and worldwide. This message is an update to assure you that we are taking precautions as well as preparing for any incidence of illness that may occur.

The health and welfare of our students is, of course, a primary concern for us. We are a school, but we are also a residential community that pays close attention to the well-being of our nearly 300 boarding students as well as their day-family colleagues. By now you are aware that H1N1 influenza has been reported at the School. We are doing all that we can to make sure that any students affected return to health quickly, and that their academic progress does not suffer.

We are responding to the general problem of H1N1 in a number of ways. Our staff nurses are charged with monitoring the presence of H1N1 on campus, as well as staying in touch with local, cantonal, and national Swiss public health officials. Furthermore, we have close relationships with local doctors who not only care for our students, but who share our (and your) concern about the problems of an infectious disease in a boarding community. These professionals, along with the rest of the boarding staff and other faculty members and administrators at the school, are staying alert for any turn in the severity of the illness in any student.

Although we have had a few isolated cases, we have been fortunate to not have any crisis related to the H1N1 virus, and have been able to carry forward our academic program. We are especially grateful for the cooperation of the faculty, who have been very accommodating of students who are ill and absent from class, and the dormitory staff, who have been ensuring that ill students are receiving meals and other care in their rooms.

The recommended treatment for H1N1 is not different than the treatment of any other flu like illness. For this reason, local health authorities are no longer testing routinely for H1N1. Any students with fever above 38C with one or more additional symptoms will be treated with care and caution.

- Students who develop flu-like symptoms which include fever over 38C, cough, headache, nasal congestion and/or sore throat should not come to school if they are day students; boarding students should see the nurse in the Health Center for assessment and treatment.
- Boarding students with flu-like illness should stay away from classes and limit interaction with other people, except to seek medical attention, for at least 24 hours after they no longer have a fever or feel feverish without the assistance of fever-reducing drugs.

TASIS is accredited by the New England Association of School & Colleges and the European Council of International Schools

- Ill students should remain in their rooms and receive care and meals from a healthy person.

- If close contact cannot be avoided, the ill student will be asked to wear a mask during the period of contact or interaction with roommates.

- Students and faculty will be encouraged to carry out hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette with emphasis placed on the importance of the basic flu prevention and protocols:

- Stay home if you are sick, with symptoms,
- Wash hands frequently with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizers.
- Cover mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing
- Avoid sharing personal items such as water bottles and avoid large gatherings of people.

To help ensure our ability to communicate with parents, all parents should be sure that the School has their emergency contact information.

Thank you for taking the time to read this important information. If families have health-related questions regarding an individual student, please contact the Health Center by email at nurse@tasis.ch.