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#### **4 JUNE UPDATE # 3 PRECAUTIONS TO BE TAKEN IN RELATION TO THE POSSIBILITY OF HUMAN SWINE INFLUENZA (H1N1)**

Dear parent/carer

This is my fourth letter to you to keep you informed about the H1N1 'swine flu' situation.

The virus is continuing to spread in Victoria and the South Australian Government has announced some new advice to people who are planning to travel to areas where there is a prevalence of the virus.

From today, in addition to the recommendation that children returning from USA, Canada, Mexico, Japan and Panama remain at home for seven days, SA Health is recommending that school children and children in child care and preschool who return from Melbourne and its metropolitan area should stay at home in isolation for seven days. This applies whether or not the child has any illness or symptoms. If children have visited other areas of Victoria, excluding Melbourne, they are free to return to school upon their return to South Australia provided they are showing no symptoms of influenza.

SA Health is also recommending that any group trips to Melbourne involving school children be postponed for the time being. These measures have come about due to reports of social transmission of the virus in the Melbourne community. This advice does not apply to any other Australian destinations at this stage.

This is in line with the recommendations of the Commonwealth's Chief Medical Officer that this voluntary exclusion should apply from yesterday, Wednesday 3 June, for children returning from areas where there is a prevalence of the virus. The same request will be made in other states and territories.

All these measures are aimed at stopping the spread of human swine flu to our vulnerable populations during the time when there is no vaccine.

The list of locations of concern is being reviewed regularly; DECS will continue to act on the advice of the health authorities and you will be advised of any updates as soon as possible should they occur.

I understand that this will cause inconvenience to some families, however I seek your cooperation in this matter in the interests of community health and the wellbeing of students and staff in our schools and preschools.

If you need particular advice I encourage you to contact your local child care director, preschool director or principal or call the National Swine Influenza hotline on 1802007.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Robinson'.

Chris Robinson  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**  
4 June 2009