

A(H1N1) FLU: UPDATE FOR SCHOOLS - 29 June 2009

As you know, the Ministry of Health has given the pandemic "manage it" status.

We update our website www.minedu.govt.nz/Pandemic regularly with Questions and Answers that reflect the enquiries being received from schools and early childhood services.

At the time of writing all schools are open and the situation is being managed well. Some schools, especially in the Wellington region, are experiencing high rates of absenteeism through illness – both staff and students.

Estimates from Ministry of Health are that nearly half of the population could be infected, resulting in about a third of the population becoming symptomatic over time.

Absenteeism will be spread over a period of several months and may reach a total of 35% across that period. Workplaces must have plans for above average staff absenteeism.

Key contact points:

Ministry of Education regional and local office managers

Education Helpline 0800 225 580

New Zealand School Trustees Association **Helpdesk: 0800 STAHELP
(0800 782 435)**

Fax: (04) 473 4706

helpdesk@nzsta.org.nz

<mailto:helpdesk@nzsta.org.nz>

For medical advice: **HEALTHLINE 0800 611 116** (www.moh.govt.nz)