



Influenza A (H1N1) update from The Scottish Government

12/05/2009

Ravenscraig Primary School in Greenock will be closed for the next week after a Primary One pupil was diagnosed as a probable case of the A (H1N1) virus.

The boy, whose mother is also a probable case, and his classmates are now being treated with the antiviral flu medicine Tamiflu.

Questions and answers on flu and schools

Health Secretary Nicola Sturgeon said:

"The probable case announced earlier today was is a 45-year-old woman. One of the possible cases announced earlier today was this woman's five year old son and he has now moved into the probable category, having tested positive for influenza A.

"Neither are confirmed yet, but because of the circumstances we do consider them to be very highly probable cases and we anticipate that they will become confirmed cases during the course of tomorrow.

"The five year old is a Primary 1 pupil at Ravenscraig Primary School in Greenock. He attended school and the after school club yesterday in a separate building, but he only became symptomatic in the after school club.

"The latest guidance is that children can be infectious before they become symptomatic so the revised guidance is that they should be considered to be infectious 12 hours before they begin to show symptoms.

"A risk assessment has been done this afternoon by Health Protection Scotland and Greater Glasgow and Clyde health board with some input from the Health Protection Agency which has experience of dealing with school closures in England.

"There is evidence that acting very quickly after children display symptoms has been very effective in minimising the spread of infection, so a decision has been taken, on the basis of the risk assessment, to close the school for a period of seven days

"Tamiflu will also be given to all the pupils in the Primary 1 class - 24 pupils considered to be his close contacts and they are getting treatment on a prophylaxis basis, with antivirals considered to be appropriate.

"The pupils who attended the after school club, who attend a number of local schools, are also being treated with antivirals and have been told not to attend the after school club or their own school for seven days.

"It is not considered appropriate or proportionate to close the after school club completely.

"This action is being taken on the basis of the precautionary principle; it's as proportionate as can be and very much in keeping with the containment strategy we are pursuing at the moment.

I have spoken to the Chief Executive of Inverclyde Council and they are in the process of informing all the parents, which will take some time. We will not have final results for the child or his mother until tomorrow at the earliest, but we will of course update you as soon as possible.

"There are four possible cases that are contacts of the mother, but they have not yet had an influenza A test result, so they are not probable.

"Our containment strategy has so far been successful and clearly we will continue that strategy for as long as we consider it to be successful."

Earlier yesterday a declared probable case in Lothian was ruled out.

In addition, six possible travel related cases are under investigation - three in NHS Lothian and one each in NHS Lanarkshire, NHS Fife and NHS Highland.