



Public Health England South West

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[www.gov.uk/phe](http://www.gov.uk/phe)

22<sup>nd</sup> February 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you are aware, this week we heard the very sad news of a pupil's death and we have been notified that this was from complications arising from a flu infection.

Whilst our thoughts are with the family at this distressing time, I have been in contact with Public Health England (PHE) South West for professional health advice concerning flu, for the whole school community.

The PHE South West Health Protection Team has said that no action is necessary from the school, but has asked me to remind parents that if your child has **symptoms of influenza** (not just a common cold), it is very important that they stay at home and do not attend school or mix with others outside the home until they have recovered. Those who do not have symptoms of flu or have already had symptoms of flu but are now well can undertake their usual activities outside of the home as normal.

General infection control practices and good hand hygiene can help to reduce transmission of all viruses, including flu, this includes:

- covering your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, using a tissue when possible
- disposing of dirty tissues promptly and carefully
- maintaining good basic hygiene, for example washing hands frequently with soap and water to reduce the spread of the virus from your hands to face or to others

For more information on influenza, please visit NHS Choices website [www.nhs.uk/flu](http://www.nhs.uk/flu).

Please be reassured that I am in contact with Public Health England on a regular basis and will continue to seek their advice as appropriate.

### Contacting Public Health England

If your child has flu-like symptoms and you are concerned about their health, please contact 111 or call your GP. If you have further questions, please contact your local Health Protection Team (HPT) on Tel: 0300 303 8162 Option 1 (Health Protection), then Option 1 for Cornwall, Devon, Somerset and Dorset.

Yours sincerely,

Headteacher