



# MERRIMAC STATE SCHOOL

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4 June 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians

Late yesterday the Australia Government announced that Victoria has become the first state to raise its response level to H1N1 Influenza A (Human Swine Influenza) from CONTAIN to a modified SUSTAIN level.

This reflects the comparatively higher level of spread of the disease in Victoria to other states.

To minimise the spread of H1N1 Influenza A, students coming to Queensland from Victoria are now required to observe a seven-day time-out period before entering one of our schools.

This includes Queensland students returning from a visit to Victoria, as well as Victorian students making a permanent move to Queensland. The Deputy Premier and Minister for health confirmed the new arrangements in State Parliament yesterday afternoon.

It means Victoria joins the USA, Canada, Panama, Mexico and Japan as affected areas from which students must observe the seven-day school time-out period in Queensland.

This will obviously have an impact on any schools currently visiting Victoria or planning trips to Victoria in the near future. The Department is preparing radio advertisements to air across the State today to spread the message and direct parents with queries to contact their school or call 13 HEALTH for more information.

Please remember the seven-day time-out period applies only to students.

Parents can assist schools to manage the current situation in the following ways:

- Provide the school with current contact details including current address, telephone number, mobile phone number and email address and any other information you may consider to be relevant.
- Continue to follow standard good hygiene practices such as covering nose and mouth if sneezing or coughing and regular hand-washing.
- Be diligent in observing your family's health and seek medical assistance where uncertain.
- Ensure children avoid major gatherings e.g. sporting events and shopping centres during the seven-day timeout period or school closure.

Queensland Health continues to closely monitor this situation and should it change, the school community will be advised immediately. Please stay informed by paying attention to media reports. Updates will be available on the Department of Education and Training website as [www.deta.qld.gov.au](http://www.deta.qld.gov.au) and our school's website.

If you have any questions about symptoms or illness you can call 13HEALTH (13432584) 24 hours a day, seven days a week or contact your regular health practitioner. For other information please contact the school.

Yours sincerely

**Dr R. J. Pointing**  
**Principal**