

Human Swine Influenza - Revised Leave and Attendance Arrangements

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Functional Sub group Personnel/Workforce - Leave

Summary Advises of changes to leave and attendance arrangements due to Australia moving to the PROTECT phase in its response to human swine influenza.

Replaces Doc. No. Human Swine Influenza - Leave and Attendance Arrangements [IB2009_026]

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Applies to Area Health Services/Chief Executive Governed Statutory Health Corporation, Board Governed Statutory Health Corporations, Affiliated Health Organisations - Non Declared, Affiliated Health Organisations - Declared, Public Health System Support Division, Community Health Centres, Dental Schools and Clinics, NSW Ambulance Service, NSW Dept of Health, Public Health Units, Public Hospitals

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HUMAN SWINE INFLUENZA – REVISED LEAVE AND ATTENDANCE ARRANGEMENTS

PURPOSE

To advise of changes to leave and attendance arrangements due to Australia moving to the PROTECT phase in its response to human swine influenza.

KEY INFORMATION

Australia has entered a new phase in its response to human swine influenza. New South Wales moved to the PROTECT phase from 17 June 2009. This new approach has been taken because the virus strain is currently not as virulent as anticipated.

Under the PROTECT phase, the focus is on early identification and treatment of those with underlying medical conditions and for all people who have moderate or severe disease.

People who have had contact with someone with human swine influenza are no longer required to go into quarantine.

IB2009_026 advised of leave provisions where employees were required to be absent from the workplace but no sickness was directly involved eg to care for a child who had been excluded from school or if the employee had been directed into home quarantine. Given the new arrangements under the PROTECT phase, leave for these purposes will no longer be required.

The usual sick, family and community service and personal/carer's leave arrangements apply to employees who are sick or who are required to care for sick family members.

Comprehensive information on human swine influenza is available on the NSW Health website at: <http://www.emergency.health.nsw.gov.au/swineflu/index.asp>.

Enquiries

Any enquiries concerning the information set out in this information bulletin in relation to staff of the NSW Health Service should be directed to human resources staff in the relevant public health organisation. Only human resources staff in public health organisations are to contact the Department.