



To Member Companies
To Parents
To Staff

Zurich, January 2010

Pandemic planning for the new (H1N1) 2009 influenza strain ("swine flu")

Ladies and Gentlemen
Dear Staff

Reports of suspected influenza have become fewer and fewer since the end of 2009/ beginning of 2010. According to the Swiss Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH), this wave of the pandemic peaked in the week of 30 November 2009. An elevated number of flu cases is still to be expected in the weeks to come, however.

Childcare Service Switzerland's internal pandemic plans therefore remain in place:

- At the moment, we are implementing the Federal Office of Public Health (FOPH) recommendations (hygiene measures, staying at home in case of illness, informing others, etc.). These can be found in English on the government's www.pandemia.ch website.
- The Kids & Co daycare centres in Basel, Bern and Zurich are all complying with the guidelines issued by their respective cantonal health services. We are preparing a number of scenarios in the event of any problems caused by high levels of staff absence. Parents will be informed directly by their individual daycare centre.
- Since some of our daycares centres care for children under 6 months old, our staff have been urged to have the vaccination. In order to reduce the risk of infection, we recommend parents with a child faced with lower immunity, not to bring your child to daycare during the acute phase of the H1N1 virus.
- We continue to provide all of our services as normal at the present time, but have prepared a number of scenarios for our offices should cases of illness increase. These will enable us to continue providing our services, even if operations have to be scaled back. This may mean that it takes longer to deal with enquiries, that opening hours are reduced or that contact is limited to the telephone. In the event of a pandemic we will do our best to maintain our emergency nanny service for as long as possible. Understandably, however, this is an area in which capacity may become tight relatively quickly. The offices in Basel, Bern, Geneva and Zurich will keep you informed.

We would ask for your patience with any restrictions to our services, and thank you for your active help in stopping the spread of the virus.

Since information is being updated all the time to reflect the prevailing situation, we would also ask you to monitor the information provided by the FOPH's official channels, your cantonal health authorities, the print media and other sources.

Yours sincerely

Renate Derungs
Managing Director, Childcare Service Switzerland

FOPH Hotline:

The FOPH has set up a national hotline to answer questions about the flu (H1N1) pandemic of 2009/10: +41 (0)31 322 21 00 (8.00 am to 6.00 pm).