

## Learning Outside the Classroom Service Policy: Managing Swine Flu

Learning Outside the Classroom Service (LOtCS) aims to put into practice guidance from the Health Protection Agency (HPA) document: "Preparing for Swine Flu: Guidance and resources for schools", September 2009.

In particular we take note of two HPA statements:

"There is no need to restrict any activities within the school, whether conducted as part of the school curriculum or as extra-curricular activities," [p5, Section 3.3].

Closure of schools – and by implication outdoor centres – is only likely in "exceptional circumstances", such as operational reasons, e.g. sick leave, absence of multiple staff members, [from p3, Section 1.4].

Therefore:

*It is our policy to deliver as normal all outdoor and environmental education at LOtCS Centres during the present phase of the swine flu pandemic, taking into account recommended good practice planning, management and response measures.*

We aim to:

- Brief children and staff in the practice of effective hygiene measures on arrival at the LOtCS Centres
- Ensure all persons habitually follow good hygiene practice
- Be alert for pupils and staff with symptoms of swine flu
- Be aware of any child or member of staff who is in an 'at risk' category
- Take prompt measures to isolate unwell persons under appropriate supervision until they can be collected/transferred off-site
- Assist in alerting parents and school authorities to incidents and events
- Use and apply the schools planning checklist for swine flu and for dealing with swine flu [Appendix 1 of HPA document]
- Keep clean any hard surfaces (tables, door handles, bunk beds)
- Strategically distribute around the LOtCS centres the HPA and NHS posters including: "Have you washed your hands?", "Catch it, Bin it, Kill it".
- Liaise with school staff in the delivery of safe hygiene management and effective response procedures, especially following advice and guidance given by the Health Protection Agency, [www.hpa.org.uk](http://www.hpa.org.uk).



Julian Ellis  
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