

Swine Flu Policy

The following advice is based on information from the [Directgov website](#).

Activities

Activities should continue as normal but leaders of activities should be alert and any youth Member with flu-like symptoms should be returned home as soon as possible and should contact – but not visit – their GP and seek treatment.

Symptoms

The symptoms of swine flu are broadly the same as those of ordinary flu but may be more severe.

The typical symptoms are:

- sudden fever
- sudden cough

Other symptoms may include:

- headache
- tiredness
- chills
- aching muscles
- limb or joint pain
- diarrhoea or stomach upset
- sore throat
- runny nose
- sneezing
- loss of appetite.

Parental contact details

Leaders should make sure they have up-to-date parents' contact details: address, telephone numbers (home, work and mobile) and email as appropriate.

Precautions

Brief and advise everyone to:

- use soap and water when washing their hands
- cover their mouth when coughing or sneezing (with a tissue, not with their hands)
- throw dirty tissues away quickly into bins.

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Group closures

At this time Groups can operate normally. If a youth Member is suspected of having a virus that might be swine flu – even if they are not currently attending the Group – the Group should take advice from local public health advisers.

The Group can stay open unless the authorities advise that the Group should close as a precautionary measure.

Further advice including international travel advice is available on the [Directgov](#) website. The above information will be updated if the advice from the statutory authorities changes.

Other questions you may be asked

1. Does the above information apply to large events

The Health Protection Agency (HPA) has advised TSA that the above information about summer activities applies to events no matter their size.

2. Does Headquarters need to be informed if a Member contracts swine flu?

There is no need to notify Headquarters unless:

- there is going to be an insurance claim made e.g. costs of getting a youth Member home early from a UK camp. If this is the case then the Scout Information Centre needs to be advised and a Scout Incident Report Form completed and returned to Unity Insurance at Lancing.
- there is contact from the media. In this case enquiries should be referred to the HQ PR Team

3. Advice for Leaders taking Scouts abroad

- Leaders taking young people abroad this summer should consult the information supplied on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) website www.fco.gov.uk. The advice is country specific.
- It is the policy of TSA to follow the travel advice given by the FCO. Groups should not travel to a particular area if the FCO advises against all travel to that particular country.
- Leaders should regularly check the advice to ensure they have the latest information.
- More travel advice can also be found on the HPA website www.hpa.org.uk
- For further advice contact Richard Neville, P&D Adviser (International).

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4. What should I do if any Member gets swine flu while abroad?

- TSA has contacted the HPA. The HPA advise that if a Member contracts swine flu while abroad they may have to be dealt with by the Health Authority (HA) in the country being visited.
- For more information see the FCO website www.fco.gov.uk.
- The HPA advise that the HA would most likely issue advice that the Member should be isolated and prescribed antiviral medicine until full recovery.
- The HPA say it would not be appropriate to suggest sending the infected Member home immediately as it would be best if they are permitted to fully recover before embarking on further travel plans.
- More travel advice is on our the HPA website www.hpa.org.uk

5. Will our overseas travel insurance cover meet any additional costs associated with a Member contracting swine flu whilst abroad

- The following only applies to the specific overseas travel policy provided through Unity Insurance Services – TSA’s own insurance company.
- Unity has checked with the underwriting insurers of the travel policy and has confirmed that swine flu ‘incidents’ are covered under the policy.
- The policy also covers up to two persons travelling out to be with the Member. This might be helpful if the Member has to remain in the Country until fully recovered and the rest of the group has to return home.
- Leaders of groups with overseas travel policies from other companies should check what is covered in the event of a Member contracting swine flu.

6. What should we do if a Scout from abroad gets swine flu while in the UK.

- The HPA advise that those who contract swine flu or are suspected of having swine flu should remain at their place of stay until full recovery.
- If the place of residence for the visitors is within a closed setting eg at a camp an isolation area should be established as a precautionary measure. This has been the approach at large events such as large music festivals where isolation units have been erected for this purpose.

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