

Pandemic Flu

The National Director's advice is:

- Have an immediate review of your present pandemic policy (most schools will have re-vamped it just a couple of years ago so it should be fit for purpose)
- Are you happy with it, if not why not and can you spot problems which it might generate and move to fix them now?
- Talk to your own medical staff, find out their plans
- Talk to the school doctor – could the school get anti-viral drugs, for instance? Government advice seems to be to go to NHS Direct, not the GP surgery – but check with yours in advance
- Ensure all your contact details for boarders in particular are up to date – confirm with pupils and or parents
- Post copies of the policy for staff to see in case they have any bright ideas/can see pitfalls
- Check how many of your staff have had flu-jab – I do not know if this provides protection but it would be logical that they might be less affected than those who have not
- Consider what you will do if you lose staff because they are sick or frightened – who will cover?
- If you cannot cover, how will you get pupils home?
- Make sure your guardian list is up to date so overseas pupils could go to them if not back overseas
- Talk to your Exams officer and get them to talk to Exam boards about what will happen if a pandemic hits during prime exam season – parents are bound to ask
- Try not to panic
- Try not to spread panic
- Remember that much of Mexico is in effect a third world country and medical services in France and Britain are considered by WHO to be better prepared for a pandemic than anywhere else in the world

The BSA's Nurse Adviser's advice is:

We have never really had a stance in the past except to refer to MOSA and WHO websites.