

15 June 2009

## Flu clinic to open in Toowoomba after college closure

Queensland Health has opened a flu clinic in Toowoomba following confirmation of human swine flu in a St Mary's College student and his father today.

The clinic, the eighth flu clinic to open in the state since the outbreak of H1N1 human swine influenza in late April, will be at Cossart House in the Toowoomba Base Hospital grounds and will operate from 10.30am to 4pm from tomorrow (Tuesday).

Queensland's Chief Health Officer Dr Jeannette Young said the clinic will assess and treat people presenting with influenza like symptoms, though people are encouraged to see their GP, or for further information call 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84) before attending a clinic.

St Mary's will be closed from tomorrow and is expected to reopen on Monday 22 June but the closure may be extended if further cases are identified.

Queensland Health has been working closely with the college and parents and students are being informed of the closure.

The decision to close the school is a precautionary measure to help protect students against the spread of human swine influenza.

Parents wanting further information can contact the school on 4631 7333.

Dr Young said establishing a flu clinic is just one of the strategies hospitals can put in place in a situation such as this to maintain business continuity and relieve the pressure on Emergency Departments.

Queensland Health has also established flu clinics at Cairns, Gold Coast, Mackay and Maroochydore. Clinics were established at Warwick, Robina and Palm Island, but closed after the initial demand dropped off.

Anyone experiencing flu-like symptoms should contact their doctor, local hospital Emergency department or 13 HEALTH (13 43 25 84).

As of this morning there had been five cases of human swine flu in the West Moreton-Darling Downs Health District.

More information on human swine flu is on the Queensland Health website at <http://www.health.qld.gov.au/swineflu/>

***(NOTE: For an audio grab of Dr Young talking about the clinic and school closure, and for general media inquiries, phone 3235 4248 or 3234 1220.)***