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Keep an eye on flu these school holidays

Children showing flu-like symptoms should be kept away from vacation care and any places where they come in contact with other children, Queensland's Chief Health Officer Dr Jeannette Young said today.

"Our policy of school closures worked well to slow the spread of human swine flu but with students now in holiday mode, we cannot afford to relax," she said.

"Children who are ill with flu-like symptoms should be cared for at home and not return to vacation care or child care until 24 hours after they become well.

Dr Young said well siblings of ill children were still able to attend a care facility.

She stressed that basic hygiene measure were still the best defence against the spread of seasonal flu or human swine influenza.

"We should encourage our children to wash hands frequently with soap and water and when coughing or sneezing, cover the mouth and nose with tissues which should be disposed of properly," she said.

Dr Young said that under the Protect Phase, there could still be partial school closures in Term 3.

The symptoms of human swine influenza are similar to those of seasonal influenza and include fever, cough, sore throat, runny or blocked nose, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue.

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