

August 18, 2009

Dear TCIS Parents,

I want to provide you with accurate information about our current situation in order to address your concerns and to deal with our situation proactively. I want to assure you that we are taking decisive measures to ensure the health of our students and staff. I hope that this letter will help to alleviate your concerns about your children and reduce your stress level.

The School and Dorm Nurses' Offices have been very busy for the past three days (Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday) as there have been more than fifteen dorm and day students that have been sent home with a fever or other significant flu-related symptoms. Some of these health concerns were identified on Sunday in the dormitory and some of them were identified at school on Monday. Furthermore, we have had a high school faculty member who has run a high fever for several days.

Nurse Bossard has kept the Daejeon Public Health Department informed regarding issues related to the H1N1 concerns at the school. On Monday the Public Health Officials sent three people to our school to examine and take throat swab tests of six random students and/or staff members at our school. We were also awaiting results from other referred students. The Department of Education in Daejeon was informed and on Monday began direct contact with the school regarding the ongoing status of students at our school and in our dorms. ***This afternoon (Tuesday) at around 2:00 p.m., our school was informed that we have eight confirmed cases (all HS students and one HS faculty member) of H1N1 – Influenza A. A few minutes after that, we were informed that the school would have to close until further notice.*** The incubation period for H1N1 – Influenza A is one week. Therefore, it is likely the closure will last up to one week. However, this is not confirmed at this date.

As you know, this past weekend it was reported in the Korean press that two older Koreans had died from H1N1. This has obviously heightened everyone's concerns in Korea about an outbreak of the virus. This will be an ongoing cause of concern for all schools in the world for the foreseeable future and the possibility of brief school closures from time to time is within the realm of options being considered by Korean school officials. We will fully cooperate with the recommendations of the Daejeon Public Health Department, the Korean Center for Disease Control, and the Daejeon Board of Education. They are consulting with our school nurse team and Dr. John Linton, TCIS School Doctor and Director of the Foreigners' Clinic at Severance Hospital in Seoul. We

also have several parents in our community who work at distinguished medical centers in Daejeon and in Korea and our medical team has been in consultation with them as well.

Our faculty and administration are preparing to begin to deliver the curriculum as soon as possible via Edline and Moodle resources, as required, during this and any future brief closures. It will obviously vary from division to division and class to class as to how well the curriculum can be delivered via online resources and how mature and equipped the student is to receive online education.

Please be reminded that flu symptoms include fever (over 37.8C or 100F), runny or stuffy nose, sore throat, tiredness, body aches, nausea, vomiting, cough, headache, difficulty breathing, and/or diarrhea. If your child begins to show any of these symptoms you should report to your “gu” public health center and inform them that your child is a student at TCIS where there are confirmed cases of H1N1. Please follow the doctor’s instructions which may include taking Tamiflu. Foreign parents who need more information regarding where to report, please contact Nurse Bossard. If your child has symptoms severe enough to go to a doctor, please inform the school using one of the following: the report form on Edline, email to Nurse Bossard ([bossardky@tcis.or.kr](mailto:bossardky@tcis.or.kr)), email to Nurse Jeong ([jeongyh@tcis.or.kr](mailto:jeongyh@tcis.or.kr)) or email or text message to your dorm staff.

I understand that you may be concerned about your child falling behind in his/her studies, or losing points for absences. Clearly, during a school closure a student’s grades will not be penalized because the school has been hampered in its ability to deliver and assess the work. It is the school’s intent to attempt to continue to deliver education to students online when possible.

We will place this document and continuing *H1N1 Updates* on Edline, but will not send out regular mass emails. Please check Edline ([www.edline.net](http://www.edline.net)) daily for further information, including school re-opening information and class and course assignments and updates. If you need your Edline access information, please contact your division secretary via cell phone. (Elementary Ms. Cindy Hye Ock Jang 010-5100-8929; Middle School Mrs. Pam Young Su Kang 010-9555-8132; High School Mrs. Eun Joo Jung 010-4444-6132). If you have any pressing questions regarding this issue please do not hesitate to contact Ryan Roberts, the Assistant Headmaster (010-6888-3663) or Kyeong Hee Bossard, the school nurse (011-9803-6667).

As always, we cherish your continued prayers and support for our school.

Sincerely,  
Thomas J. Penland, Ed.D.  
Headmaster

c.  
TCIS Board of Trustees  
TCIS Faculty/Staff