



Zug, 1 May 2009

Press release

Regular hand-washing rather than Tamiflu

At its first meeting on Friday afternoon, the “Pandemic Communication” task force^{*} came to the conclusion that the situation in the canton of Zug remains normal and that no urgent emergency measures are necessary.

Despite the fact that the World Health Organisation (WHO) raised the pandemic level to 5 – the second-highest alert level – on the evening of Wednesday 29 April, the canton of Zug has to date recorded no suspected cases. The task force noted this at their first meeting and having gone through a comprehensive inspection list, the meeting also concluded that the situation in the canton of Zug can continue to be described as normal and as a consequence, no urgent emergency measures are necessary. The canton of Zug is well prepared for Influenza A(H1N1) ["swine flu"] and should there be an escalation in the situation, the necessary steps will be implemented immediately.

The various municipalities will be informed in detail at the beginning of next week to enable them to react in the right way to any situation on every level. Discussions will take place to determine the necessary measures (for example as far as schools are concerned).

Recommendations to the general public

As before, there is no reason for the general public to panic. Due to the fact that various contradictory sources of information are currently circulating, the “Pandemic Communication” task force particularly recommends the following five points to Zug residents:

- wash hands regularly
- do not purchase Tamiflu individually without medical prescription from a doctor
- it is not strictly necessary to purchase protective masks at the moment, but this is something that can definitely be taken into consideration
- there are various documents and links (from the WHO and the Federal Ministry for Health) available on the www.zug.ch website (on Influenza A(H1N1) ["swine flu"]). The press releases are also available on the Zug website in English.
- you are advised to consult your general practitioner for personal health issues

***Members of the “Pandemic Communication” task force**

- Cantonal councillor Joachim Eder, director of the cantonal health department and head of the task force
- Dr. Rudolf Hauri, official cantonal doctor
- Marc Höchli, responsible for communications
- Urs Marti, chief of cantonal operational headquarters of the military and civil defence department
- Professor Markus Vogt, head of internal medicine at the Zug Cantonal Hospital
- Karl Walker, Zug chief of police
- Joe Willimann, representative of the internal security administration department
- Richard Aeschlimann, research associate from the cantonal health department

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