



Zug, 28. April 2009

## **Swine flu: Canton of Zug fully prepared**

**Up until now, (as of Tuesday 28 April at 5 pm), no suspected cases of swine influenza A/H1N1, or swine flu as it is known, have been reported in the canton of Zug. Should this situation change however, the canton of Zug has taken the appropriate precautionary measures.**

The WHO (World Health Organisation) raised the alert level overnight on Tuesday 28 April to level 4, based on the occurrence and the spread of swine flu. Level 4 (out of a total of six warning levels) signifies that there are limited outbreaks of the infection with the first cases of human-to-human transmission being recorded.

### **Canton of Zug takes appropriate measures**

Should swine flu reach Switzerland, then the canton of Zug will not be caught unawares and can now reap the benefits of the significant precautionary measures taken by those in charge in the event of a pandemic. The chief cantonal doctor already informed doctors, hospitals and emergency services in advance on Monday about the necessary measures for such an event. An isolation room is available at the Cantonal Hospital and ready to handle any cases of the illness. The Zug cantonal website - [www.zug.ch](http://www.zug.ch) – has information in German under the heading "Schweinegrippe" as well as a number of useful links. The site will be updated constantly as and when necessary. The Federal Ministry for Health (Bundesamt für Gesundheit – BAG) has also set up a special information page on swine influenza ([www.bag.admin.ch/influenza/06411/index.html?lang=de#](http://www.bag.admin.ch/influenza/06411/index.html?lang=de#) - in German, also available in French) and is manning a telephone hotline during office hours on 031 322 21 00 to provide further information.

### **Managing panic levels**

It is important for people not to panic or overreact and simply to carry out the protective measures recommended by the BAG and the WHO. A protective surgical mask should be worn by anyone coming into contact with suspected cases of the disease. Good hygiene is important for the hands, via regular washing with soap. Individual purchases of Tamiflu or other specific antiviral flu medicines is definitely not recommended at this current time by the national or international health authorities.

*English translation put at disposal by the International School of Zug and Luzern*