



Zug, 30. April 2009

"Pandemic Communication" task force implemented

The Cantonal Health Department implemented a "Pandemic Communication" task force on Wednesday 29 April, reacting swiftly to the global developments of A/H1N1 Influenza, or swine flu as it is known.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) decided that under the circumstances, it was necessary to enforce pandemic level 5 on the evening of Wednesday 29 April – the second highest alert level of the onset of a pandemic.

Active role for "Pandemic Communication" task force

On the same day, the canton of Zug's director of health Joachim Eder implemented the "Pandemic Communication" task force, comprising the following members:

- 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

The task force called its first meeting for Friday 1 May. It will ensure that cantonal bodies which are affected by issues relating to the pandemic have the necessary means and channels for adequate and timely communication to the media and the general public. Uniform and coherent information communicated both externally and internally will make an important contribution to ensuring the professional handling of the challenges which will arise.

Careful dealing and handling are required

The immediate implementation of the "Pandemic Communication" task force is merely the latest step in the canton of Zug's handling of the pandemic which was prepared long in advance. There is absolutely no reason for the population to panic. As things currently stand, the canton of Zug has not registered any definite or suspected cases of the illness, and even in the event that any suspected cases occur, the canton of Zug would still by no means be in a critical situation. The current situation in the canton is still defined as "normal".

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