



## BRITISH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF THE PHILIPPINES

### PREMIER SPONSORS



Border Holdings (UK) Ltd.



Dear Member:

Attached is a Community Notice from the British Embassy regarding the threat of the swine influenza virus and the latest advice from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on this matter.

Please take note that this advisory is only **FOR BRITISH NATIONALS**. Should you have additional questions, please contact the Consular Section of the Embassy at email: [DLManila-ConsUn-Cleared@fco.gov.uk](mailto:DLManila-ConsUn-Cleared@fco.gov.uk) or telephone 858-2200.

Regards,

*Keith*

Keith Perrin  
Vice Chairman

## **BRITISH EMBASSY MANILA COMMUNITY NOTICE**

The World Health Organisation (WHO) is co-ordinating the global response to human cases of swine influenza A (H1N1) and monitoring the corresponding threat of an influenza pandemic. Comprehensive advice and information on the current situation can be found on the [WHO website](#).

On 29 April the WHO raised the pandemic alert level to phase 5. This is characterised by human-to-human spread of the virus into at least two countries in one WHO region.

To date there have been no reports of suspected cases of swine flu (H1N1) in the Philippines.

In order for you to keep up to date on any further developments, you should closely monitor the Foreign & Commonwealth Office travel advice [www.ukinthephilippines.fco.gov.uk](http://www.ukinthephilippines.fco.gov.uk) for our latest advice. There is also a dedicated [Swine Flu](#) page on the FCO website.

The following websites can also provide any additional information (please click on the links):

[World Health Organisation](#)

[UK Department of Health](#)

[Health Protection Agency](#)

[National Travel Health Network and Centre \(NaTHNaC\)](#)

General infection control practices and good respiratory hand hygiene can help to reduce transmission of all viruses, including the human swine influenza. This includes:

- covering your nose and mouth when coughing or sneezing, using a tissue when possible
- disposing of dirty tissues promptly and carefully
- maintaining good basic hygiene, for example washing hands frequently with soap and water to reduce the spread of the virus from your hands to face or to other people
- cleaning hard surfaces (e.g. door handles) frequently using a normal cleaning product
- making sure your children follow this advice.

How this epidemic could affect, if at all, The Philippines and how serious it would be as a health risk worldwide is far from clear. But things could change rapidly, and we wanted British Nationals in the Philippines to have the best sources of information and advice available to them. Depending on developments, there is a possibility that the level of consular assistance and visa service which we can provide may be significantly reduced, or in certain circumstances we may have to close the Mission temporarily to prevent the spread of infection. We will let you know if the situation disrupts our operation, but for the time being it is business as usual.

Please note that we are not able to offer any medical treatment or supplies. You should seek local medical advice if you feel it necessary. The British Government will not be in the position to offer evacuation of British Nationals in the event of an influenza pandemic.

If you have further questions, please email us at [DLManila-ConsUn-Cleared@fco.gov.uk](mailto:DLManila-ConsUn-Cleared@fco.gov.uk)

Those of you who are already registered on LOCATE should have received this information via your e-mail contact address. Please let us know if you have not (contact e-mail details above). For those of you who have not registered, can I take this opportunity to encourage you to do so. Even if you registered in person at the Embassy some while ago, you should register again online. The process will provide you with a password that will allow you to update your own records so that the FCO will always have up to date information about where you are and how we can contact you.

Please go to the following website for details and to register:

<http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travelling-and-living-overseas/Locate/>

Joanne Finnamore-Crorkin  
HM Consul

4 May 2009