

TO THE FILIPINO COMMUNITY IN SWITZERLAND

CIRCULAR LETTER - 09 - 2009

The Philippine Embassy in Berne wishes to convey the following information provided by the Government of Switzerland on official contact details for measures against the spread of swine flu.

Unofficial Translation Circular No.08/2009

The Federal Department of Foreign Affairs – Protocol – presents its compliments to the Diplomatic Missions and has the honor to inform them of the following information in connection with the emergence of a new influenza virus A/H1N1 (swine flu).

Since 23 April 2009, cases of infection have been reported in various countries. National and international health authorities are monitoring developments of the situation, informing the population and making recommendations. Advisories on precaution and other useful information concerning the new flu virus and the risk of pandemic, are available in several languages in the following websites:

World Health Organization www.who.int/http://who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/en/index.html
Federal Office for Public Health www.bag.admin.ch/influenza
Federal Veterinary Office www.bvet.admin.ch
Official Site of Canton of Geneva www.ge.ch/pandemie
Official Site of Canton of Vaud www.vd.ch
Official Site of Canton of Berne www.be.ch/pandemie
Official Site of Canton of Bale Ville www.bs.ch/francais.htm
European Center for the Prevention and Control of Diseases <http://ecdc.europa.eu/en/>

For information which are not included in the above-cited sites, the following tel. numbers may be contacted:

National Emergency	+41 (0)31 322 21 00 (08h00-18h00)
Infoline of Canton of Geneva	+41 (0)22 546 50 40

If symptoms of pandemic flu appear within 7 days in a person from a risk zone indicated in the WHO website, a doctor should be immediately contacted.

The Department notes that by virtue of the general principle of admission in international law, the State exercises its sovereignty on all persons within its territory, including foreigners as well as those enjoying privileges and immunities. These persons are accorded these privileges in the performance of their official functions. On the other hand, these persons should respect the laws and regulations of the accrediting State. It follows, therefore, that persons enjoying privileges and immunities will receive, in case of pandemic, the same measures and the same conditions as the resident population in Switzerland.

The Department invites the Diplomatic Missions to disseminate this information in a manner they deem appropriate to members of its staff and to the consular posts within their jurisdiction.

The Department avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Diplomatic Missions the assurances of its highest consideration.

30 April 2009