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Sydney school swine flu scare

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A Sydney boy who had been on a cruise carrying swine-flu infected passengers, returned to school for about a day before being quarantined, Christian Schools Australia says.

The boy does not have swine flu, and is not displaying any symptoms of the illness, Christian Schools Australia CEO Stephen O'Doherty said.

The child is being quarantined with his family as a precaution, Mr O'Doherty told Macquarie Radio.

Parents from Penrith Christian School in Orchard Hills told the radio network they had received text messages from the school about a possible swine flu infection.

"The boy was on the (Pacific Dawn) cruise ... he did turn up at school, he was there for ... the better part of a day yesterday, and at that time the health department, we understand, contacted people to say that if you've been on the cruise you need to be self-quarantined," Mr O'Doherty said.

"The school doesn't believe the child should have (attended school.)

"I need to point out though, he doesn't have swine flu, he doesn't have any symptoms, so this is simply a case of a precautionary quarantine that's required by the health department.

"The school has given parents information about that."

Mr O'Doherty said the health department deserved criticism.

"I have to say the school and Christian Schools Australia have been unimpressed by the way the health department have handled the matter and I don't think we're alone in it," he said.

"In the absence of clear instruction and in the absence of clear communication by the department, which is charged with that job, people start to worry."

AAP

This story was found at: <http://www.smh.com.au/national/sydney-school-swine-flu-scare-20090527-bmtq.html>

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