Swine Flu and You
What Patients with Primary Immunodeficiency Diseases Need to Know

Currently, the Immune Deficiency Foundation understands that individuals with primary immunodeficiency (PIDD) have at least the same risk of contracting swine flu as does the rest of the population. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is trying to determine whether people with normal immune systems who got the "flu" shot this year have any immunity at all against this. The same type of anti-viral medicine, i.e Tamiflu or Relenza, which is effective for people with normal immune systems would be effective for patients with PIDD who get this type of influenza.

Influenza can be diagnosed rapidly by a test done in physician offices. If the test is positive, then one of the two medications can be prescribed to reduce or shorten the symptom period. However, it would be wise to contact your pediatrician or primary care physician first, before going to their office.

You may want to stay away from crowded public places, such as shopping malls, if you are concerned. Most people can get information from the national media and from their physicians on other ways to prevent exposure, as well as when to use added precautionary measures.

For more, updated information on the Swine Flu, please go to the CDC Website: http://www.cdc.gov/swineflu/