

Dear Parent

I am writing to you because your child is competing in the Queensland Primary Schools State Swimming Championships that are scheduled in Cairns from 26-28 March this year.

You may be aware there is currently an outbreak of dengue fever, a mosquito borne disease, in the Cairns region.

The Department of Education, Training and the Arts has worked with Queensland Health, Tropical Population Health Services, in Cairns, and other agencies to complete a risk assessment and put in place strategies to protect students and their families attending the championships.

Queensland Health advises that the best way to reduce the risk of dengue fever is to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes. Queensland Health recommends the regular application of insect repellent, and advises people to wear long, loose, light coloured clothing.

We are seeking your assistance in discussing precautionary measures with your child prior to the championships and have attached the Queensland Health – *Dengue Fever in North Queensland* brochure and *Protection for School Students against Dengue* information sheet so you can take protective measures that you consider necessary for you and your family.

Also included is a Written Authority for the Supply and Use of Insect Repellent for you to complete.

Your child must hand this signed, written authority to their team managers on arrival.

As an extra precaution each competitor will receive a package including insect repellent and information.

Those competitors not accompanied by a parent or carer will receive the package when they arrive in Cairns. They should hand the signed, written authority to their team manager.

Those competitors travelling independently with parents or carers will receive the package when they arrive at the state championships venue – Marlin Coast Swimming Pool at Smithfield - on the morning of Thursday 26 March. They should also hand the signed, written authority to their team manager.

Further information regarding dengue fever is available at www.health.qld.gov.au/dengue

If you would like to discuss this further please contact Mr Garry Smith, Regional School Sport Officer, Far North Queensland Region on telephone (07) 4033 2690.

Yours sincerely



Rachel Hunter
Director-General