

## ***Introduction***

Influenza A/H1N1 virus is an acute respiratory disease of humans, that caused by one or more of the influenza viruses of type "A". This disease has caused substantial morbidity and mortality in humans. The severity of the disease ranges from very mild symptoms to severe illnesses that can result in death, (*WHO, 2009*).

Influenza A/H1N1 virus is contagious and bind through hemagglutinin onto sialic acid on the surface of epithelial cells, typically in the nose, throat and lungs and can spread from person to other through coughing, sneezing or talking by people with influenza. Sometimes people may become infected by touching something – such as a surface or object – with flu viruses on it and then touching their mouth or nose. The symptoms of this disease are similar to the symptoms of regular human flu and include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue, (*Dumar, 2009 & CDC, 2010*).

According to the *Center for Disease Control and Prevention, (2009)* the students can get sick with flu and schools may act as a point of spread, where students can easily spread the disease to other students and their families. So the largest number of cases has been in people between age of 5 and 24 years old. The students, school staff, and their families must take personal responsibility for helping to slow the spread of the virus by practicing infection control steps to keep from getting sick with flu and protecting others from getting the flu.

The school nurse promotes health by providing health information directly to individual and groups of students, by providing guidance about the health education, encouraging comprehensive, sequential, and age appropriate information. The school nurse is a member of the coordinated school health team that promotes the health and

well-being of school members through collaborative efforts, (*American Academy of pediatric, 2008*).

The school health nurse should consult with the teachers health concerns and health education activities. The classrooms teachers should make every effort to work with school nurse in matters related to students health, but for this to be achieved certain responsibilities should be provided by the school nurse as the following, the nurse can help the teachers by letting them know the signs and symptoms on various health problems, establishing referral mechanisms, working with the teacher in terms of health guidance, providing frequent teacher-nurse conferences to discuss teacher observation, to help teacher know what action to take in emergencies to help pupils with known health problems. The teacher can help the nurse by observing the children daily, assisting in screening, and referring suspected health problems, (*Ivanov et al., 2008*).

### ***Significant of the study:***

The great concern of Egyptian population towards influenza A/H1N1 and continuously highest rate of illness occurred in school– aged children. Also Influenza A/H1N1 outbreak has led to numerous precautionary school closures in several countries. This study was conducted to assess the students' knowledge, practices and attitudes toward influenza A/H1N1 in secondary schools for girls to increase awareness among the students.

According to the *Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP, 2009)* announcement until December 2010: cumulative number of humans infected with H1N1 virus " world wide were (1549364) cases and (25174) deaths, in Egypt total number of H1N virus cases were (15739) cases, and the number of deaths were (267) cases.