

H1N1

Council Update

November, 2009

Our Schools are taking directions from our School Board

- **The York Catholic District School Board who is working in consultation with the York Region Community and Health Services Department**

H1N1 Symptoms include:

- fever and cough
- and one or more of the following:
 - sore throat
 - muscle ache
 - joint pain
 - weakness
 - *children under five years of age may vomit and have diarrhea

Teachers and staff are continually encouraging students to:

- Wash their hands with soap and water thoroughly and often (15 second rule)
- Not share personal items like pens, pencils, drinks or food
- Cough or sneeze into their sleeve or a tissue

Hand washing notes:

- Hand washing still remains the single most important measure for preventing the spread of infections.
- Hand sanitizer dispensers have been placed in our school office and near computer banks in our library and computer lab. We are aware of the potential environmental sensitivity and allergy ramifications of sanitizers and be will monitoring their use accordingly.

The Principal is:

- Regularly including safety protocols for students in morning announcements
- Posting relevant prevention information and instructions in prominent areas of the school
- Ensuring that all soap dispensers are checked twice daily and kept filled
- Liaising with school custodial staff regarding environmental cleaning procedures

The Principal is also:

- Isolating and sending home any students who exhibit signs of illness
- Keeping parents and staff up-to-date on Board directives and protocols
- Monitoring absenteeism data in conjunction with the Department of Health and School Board
- Ensuring that School Board protocols are being followed
- Working in partnership with parents

Parents are asked to reinforce with your children the importance of:

- Washing their hands with soap and water thoroughly and often
- Not sharing personal items like pens, pencils, drinks or food
- Coughing or sneezing into their sleeve or a tissue
- Using a foam-based hand sanitizer frequently throughout the day (sent from home in travel size form)

Parents are also encouraged to:

- Let the school know if you are keeping your child home with flu symptoms
- Consider making alternate childcare arrangements should they be needed
- Help to calm the potential anxiety faced by your children during this challenging time of H1N1

- Keep abreast of medical information via the Department of Health and the York Catholic District School Board
- Consult with your doctor about vaccination information

**For more information,
please contact:**

- www.york.ca
- www.flightflu.ca
- www.ycdsb.ca