

H1N1 General Messages

September 14, 2009

- Our school continues to operate as per our daily routine.
- We take our direction from the Board who is working in close cooperation with the Huron and Perth Health Units. Board staff are in daily communication with health authorities. We have been assured that they are very sensitive to our concerns regarding the operation of schools.
- Information and instruction on proper hand washing technique is already in place and is being renewed and re-emphasized, along with the advice to avoid sharing food, beverages and other personal items.
- We continue to stress good hygiene practices to stay healthy generally and prevent the spread of the influenza and other infections
- As per standard school practice, all school staff are vigilant for students who are ill and to report any concerns to the principal. Students who are ill should remain at home until they are feeling better.
- As always, our custodians continue to provide very thorough and effective cleaning and disinfection as part of their daily routine duties. The Huron and Perth Health units have stated that no enhanced cleaning or disinfecting is recommended at this time. Thorough and effective routine cleaning and disinfecting practices are in effect in our schools and are supported by The Huron and Perth Health Units. As per standard practice, custodians provide very thorough and effective cleaning and disinfecting of schools as part of their daily routine duties. These include cleaning surfaces that are high contact (e.g., student desktops, classroom tables, drinking water fountains, telephones, area designated for ill students) or high contamination areas such as washrooms (e.g., toilet flush handles, toilet seats, hand wash sink faucets, stall and entrance doors and handles, soap and feminine product dispensers, counter tops, plumbing fixtures).
- Hand Sanitizers: The best approach to infection control is still proper had washing with soap and water, all staff/students are to make every attempt possible to wash their hands as per the hand-washing information provided by The Huron and Perth Health Units. As a secondary line of defense the school board is in process of implementing a hand sanitizing station at the entrance of each school/facility and in classrooms/rooms where there is no running water available to wash hands. Hand sanitizers are to be used only under adult supervision. Children are not to share their personal items with others.
- School Closure: Our school remains open. Any decision to close or modify school operations due to an illness will be made by under the advice of the Huron and Perth Health Units Chief Medical Officer's of Health and with Board officials.
- Individuals exhibiting flu-like symptoms of sufficient severity that require medical attention should contact their health care provider or call Telehealth Ontario 24/7 line at 1-866-797-0000. General information regarding the H1N1 flu virus can be found on the following government websites <http://www.amdsb.ca/>, www.health.gov.on.ca or www.phac-aspc.gc.ca.
- Should a student stay home if they have a family member who is sick?
Children who are healthy are expected to come to school. We would advise parents not to withdraw their children as a precaution. Parents must understand that it is expected that their child attend school on all days identified in the school year calendar and if their child is absent that they must ensure the continuity of learning for their child.

Since the virus continues to resemble seasonal influenza, those who are feeling well should continue to attend school.