



# Policy: Pandemic Action Plan

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## 1.0 Pandemic Action Plan

- 1.1 This plan has been developed to assist administration and principals in preparing for and managing the impact of a health related emergency. With the existing threat of an influenza pandemic, the Board recognizes the need for preparedness. The plan was designed to provide for the continuity of instruction and the continued safety of staff and students, in the event of a pandemic or other health related emergency. In the event of an emergency, such as a flu pandemic, our schools and board office will be subject to higher than normal staff and student absenteeism, interruptions to transportation, and the closure of schools/board office.
- 1.2 This plan includes guidelines and steps each school/board office should take in the event of outbreak or threat of an outbreak. It will be subject to revisions pending wider research regarding ongoing events worldwide and nationally. This document therefore, is a working document that will be updated as needed.
- 1.3 The Superior North Catholic District School Board strives to maintain a culture of safety and well being in all of our schools. Student and staff safety is at the highest priority for everyone. We will work closely with the Ministry of Education and our public health partners including the Thunder Bay District Health Unit to ensure the safety of all.

- 1.4 The **Thunder Bay District Health Unit** is urging the public to protect themselves and others against illness-causing germs that spread through the respiratory route (coughing, sneezing) by:
- 1.4.1 Washing your hands often with soap and water, or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer;
  - 1.4.2 Covering your cough and sneeze with a tissue or into your arm, not your hand;
  - 1.4.3 Staying home if you are sick, if possible;
  - 1.4.4 Avoiding visiting people in hospitals or long-term care homes if you are sick; and
  - 1.4.5 Getting your flu shot if you haven't already done so as the flu virus is still circulating in the community. The flu shot is available from health care providers as well as pharmacies. For those under the age of five without a health care provider, please call the Health Unit at 625-5900 and ask to speak with a vaccine Nurse.
- 1.5 We will ensure that our schools and custodial staff have the resources and appropriate training to ensure that our schools continue to be safe and clean for students and staff. An emphasis will be placed on cleaning "high-touch" surfaces (e.g. pencil sharpeners, water fountain knobs and push buttons, doorknobs, faucet handles, toys and electronic devices). Additionally, a concerted effort will be made to reinforce the importance of regular hand washing and cough/sneeze etiquette.

## References

- [World Health Organization Pandemic Phases and Descriptions](#)
- [World Health Organization](#)
- [Thunder Bay District Health Unit](#)

- [Government of Canada](#)
- [Ontario Ministry of Health](#)

## Approval and Review Dates

Prior Date Approved: June 16, 2008

Revised Date Approved: March 10, 2020

Review Prior To: June, 2022

Reviewed by: Policy Committee, Administrative Council