



## SUPERIOR NORTH CATHOLIC District School Board

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September 23, 2009

**Geraldton  
St. Joseph  
Catholic School**

**Longlac  
Our Lady of Fatima  
Catholic School**

**Marathon  
Holy Saviour  
Catholic School**

**Manitouwadge  
Our Lady of Lourdes  
Catholic School**

**Nakina  
St. Brigid  
Catholic School**

**Nipigon  
St. Edward  
Catholic School**

**Red Rock  
St. Hilary  
Catholic School**

**Schreiber  
Holy Angels  
Catholic School**

**Terrace Bay  
St. Martin  
Catholic School**

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Reports of the spread of the H1N1 virus are often in the news, and are a concern to families and schools. This letter is to inform you of the precautions that the Superior North Catholic DSB has put into effect in all of our schools:

- Policy and procedures in place to deal with any pandemic (See Pandemic Action Plan V139 and Pandemic Action Plan AR139) on the Board web site at [www.snacsb.on.ca](http://www.snacsb.on.ca) under 'Home-Policies and Manuals'.
- Close communication and cooperation between the Ontario Ministry of Health, Ontario Ministry of Education and School Boards.
- Prevention and Containment:
  - ▶ Proper hand washing.
  - ▶ Promoting the students and staff to stay home when sick.
  - ▶ Reporting to the local Health Unit when absenteeism due to flu-like symptoms increases significantly.
  - ▶ Identifying and purchasing resources for immediate and long-term use (ie. hand sanitizers, first aid kits, etc.).
  - ▶ Ensuring staff and families are aware of the symptoms of influenza and the importance of reporting influenza-like illness symptoms to their school.
  - ▶ Ensuring staff, students and families practise hand hygiene (information sheets sent home, posted in all school rooms, and on Board web site).
  - ▶ Alcohol-based sanitizers available in rooms without sinks (students use with supervision).
  - ▶ Students are asked not to bring their own hand sanitizers, as their use must be supervised.
  - ▶ Staff and students instructed on and practise hand hygiene (instruction, posters, Board web site).
  - ▶ Staff and students instructed on and practise respiratory etiquette (containing a cough or sneeze, disposing of used tissue, hand hygiene after tissue use).
  - ▶ Staff and students instructed on and encouraged to avoid touching eyes, mouth and nose.
  - ▶ Cleaning staff instructed on more frequent cleaning of surfaces and items commonly touched (eg. doorknobs, taps, keyboards).
  - ▶ Students encouraged to use their own pens, pencils, tissues, etc. at school, to reduce the need to share supplies.
  - ▶ Schools have protocols to notify parents/guardians/designated alternates if a child becomes ill with influenza-like illness symptoms at school.

Parents are advised to keep children home if influenza-like symptoms are evident. These are fever and cough, and one or more of the following symptoms:

- Sore throat.
- Muscle aches, joint pain, or weakness.
- In children under 5 years of age, gastrointestinal symptoms may also be present and fever may not be prominent.

It is important to note that everyone, staff, students and families, all play a role in ensuring that our schools are healthy and safe. Thank you for your support.

Yours Sincerely,

*Valerie Pichette*

Valerie Pichette  
Director of Education

VP:cw

“It is important that students get the message to wash their hands often. We hope parents and teachers lead by example to ensure our students and our schools stay healthy.”

Education Minister Wynne

“Ontario is ready for a busy flu season, but we can all help to prevent the spread of flu to our friends and families. The single most effective way is by washing our hands thoroughly and often with soap and water for at least 15 seconds.”

Dr. Arlene King  
Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario