



## Memorandum

To: Parents / Guardians / Staff

From: Michele Arbour  
Director of Education

Date: Wednesday, August 26, 2009

Re: H1N1 Flu Virus

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The Ministry of Health and Long Term Care has provided guidelines for the prevention and management of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 in our elementary and secondary schools. In accordance with these guidelines our Board continues to encourage staff, students and visitors to follow good health practices including:

**Good hand hygiene:** Keeping your hands clean is the single most important measure for the prevention of infection. Frequent hand washing is strongly encouraged.

**Respiratory Etiquette:** Students, staff and visitors are encouraged to cough and sneeze into their sleeve (not their hands) or to cover their mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing.

**Stay Home When Ill:** Students, staff and volunteers who become ill are encouraged to stay home until they no longer have a fever and are feeling better. Parents / guardians / designated alternates will be contacted to pick up their ill child as soon as possible and they will be advised to keep their child at home until they no longer have a fever and are feeling better.

The Board continues to work with the Renfrew County and District Health Unit to ensure that these practices are occurring at all Catholic schools in our Board and we would request the assistance of our parents/guardians in supporting these practices at home.

It is important to note that if an outbreak of H1N1 does occur in Renfrew County the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care and the Public Health Agency of Canada to-date do not recommend school closures.

Thank you for your assistance in helping us to “sustain safe school environments characterized by warmth, hospitality, good humour and joy.”

cc Renfrew County & District Health Unit  
RCCDSB Trustees  
Schools  
Diocese of Pembroke