



## Greater St. Albert Catholic Schools

# H1N1 PANDEMIC INFORMATION BULLETIN

TO: Division Sites and Division Public Information  
FROM: The Division Crisis Response Team  
DATE: **Bulletin No. 4 – October 27, 2009** TIME: 11:00 a.m.

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Parents with questions or concerns should contact their school principal.

### Flu Season and School Absenteeism

1. Our schools are experiencing an increase in numbers of students/staff sick with influenza-like illness. This includes seasonal influenza that we would expect at this time of year. Symptoms include: *sudden onset of respiratory symptoms with new cough and fever (not always present) with one or more of: sore throat; muscle aches; joint pain; weakness. Vomiting or diarrhea may also be present.*
2. Schools must report absentee rates greater than 10% to Alberta Health Services, Public Health. Six of our 17 schools are reporting over 10%. We have notified Alberta Health Services (AHS), Public Health of this situation. They believe this increased illness is due to H1N1 2009 because this virus causes most of the flu-like illness in schools around the province.
3. As recommended by Public Health we are:
  - Promoting and reminding students/staff of basic hand washing and coughing technique;
  - Notifying parents if students are sick. Separating students until picked up by parents;
  - Advising sick students/staff to stay home;
  - Cleaning and disinfecting schools, including high-touch areas, frequently;
  - Monitoring student/staff absentee rates.
4. Parents should keep sick children home until they are free of symptoms and feeling well.
5. Healthy students/staff with mild infections do **NOT** need to be tested for H1N1. You should seek medical attention quickly **ONLY IF** you have any of the following: *chronic heart, lung or kidney disease; diabetes; immune suppression; neuromuscular or blood disorders; conditions that need long-term treatment with acetylsalicylic acid (ASA); conditions that increase the risk of aspiration; pregnancy.*

[www.fightflu.ca](http://www.fightflu.ca)

[www.albertahealthservices.ca](http://www.albertahealthservices.ca)

780-408-5465 (LINK)

