

# ***Keewatin-Patricia District School Board***

## **DRYDEN OFFICE**

79 Casimir Avenue · Dryden, Ontario · P8N 2Z6  
Phone (807) 223-5311 · Fax (807) 223-4703



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*JOCELYN BULLOCK, Human Resources Manager*

*Telephone: (807) 223-5311 Ext. 267 / Toll Free: 1-877-287-5430 Ext. 267*

*E-mail: [jocelyn.bullock@kpdsb.on.ca](mailto:jocelyn.bullock@kpdsb.on.ca)*

## **M E M O R A N D U M**

**TO: All Staff, Parents/Guardians**

**FROM: Jocelyn Bullock, Human Resources Manager**

**DATE: September 1, 2009**

**RE: H1N1 Influenza Virus**

This correspondence is to provide further communication and KPDSB specific information with regard to the above.

- The Keewatin-Patricia District School Board has an established Pandemic Plan and will continue to operate under the guidelines of that document in close consultation with the Northwestern Health Unit
- The Operations Committee established under the Pandemic Plan will meet and continue to develop regular communication for staff and parents
- Our schools continue to operate as per our daily routine
- During the previous school year, proper hygiene (hand-washing and sneezing/coughing etiquette) were emphasized and these will continue to be emphasized this year in our schools
- In addition to regular hand washing stations (i.e. sinks throughout the building) – hand sanitizer stations have been placed in the schools in areas where they are under adult supervision
- Individuals should be aware that the symptoms of H1N1 or Influenza Like Illness (ILI) are as follows:
  - Sore throat
  - Muscle aches
  - Joint Pain
  - Weakness

The virus continues to resemble seasonal influenza in the majority of cases.

Individuals exhibiting flu-like symptoms of sufficient severity that require medical attention should contact their health care provider or call Telehealth Ontario's 24/7 line at 1-866-797-0000

- Students, staff and volunteers who become ill are encouraged to stay home until they no longer have a fever and are well
- Parents are encouraged to develop contingency plans for child care should their child become ill

- The Board will continue to review the emerging epidemiology of Influenza Like Illness as a result of H1N1 and will take the appropriate measures regarding school closures depending on factors such as the frequency and severity of cases among students, staff and volunteers, any unique characteristics of the student population, the ability to continue to operate the school in a safe and healthy manner and the social and economic impact of any contemplated closure

If you have any further questions or concerns please contact Sheena Valley, Communications Assistant, at 223-5311 extension 247, or toll free at 1-877-287-5430 extension 247.

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