



Halton District School Board

Wayne Joudrie, *Director of Education*

Bruce Jones, *Chair of the Board*

April 30, 2009

To: All Parents/Guardians and Staff

As you have already learned through the media, a strain of influenza, swine flu H1N1, has been reported in Canada, Mexico and the United States as well as in several European countries. Countries around the world and the World Health Organization are investigating this illness.

The Halton District School Board is working in close cooperation with Halton Region Health Department, Communicable Diseases Branch. The Board will take whatever advice or action regional health authorities recommend to reduce the risk to our school communities.

The Board has a comprehensive Pandemic Response Plan that will be activated on notification from the Health Department.

In the meantime, we continue to stress the importance of the following routine measure with our students and staff:

- Wash hands well and often with soap and warm water
- Cover your mouth and nose when you sneeze and cough
- Cough and sneeze into your sleeve or arm
- Contact your family physician and stay at home if you are ill
- Check <http://www.fightflu.ca> for more information
- Check <http://www.voyage.gc.ca> for travel notices and advisories
- Speak with a health professional if you experience severe flu-like symptoms.

For additional information from Halton Regional Health Department about swine flu updates, please see http://www.halton.ca/health/services/communicable_disease/swine-flu.htm. You can also call Telehealth Ontario at 1-866-797-0000.

Administrators are monitoring the general health condition of students. As per standard practice, if students exhibit symptoms of illness, parents are called and advised to have their son or daughter stay home until they are well. Children who are healthy are expected to come to school.

Updated information will be available on our Board's website at <http://www.hdsb.ca>.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Joudrie'.

Wayne Joudrie
Director of Education