



October 28, 2009

Dear Parents,

In follow-up to Monday's letter, I wish to advise you that we have had a few other confirmed cases of H1N1 in our school. In addition, we have other "probable" cases. The health care system is no longer testing individuals unless they are in a high risk category; therefore we are relying primarily on information from *info-santé*. The individuals are recuperating at home and to date these are mild cases.

As you have been told previously, we are regularly disinfecting at school. We continue to monitor the situation and implement measures to reduce the risk of contagion. As we are following the directives of both the School Board and the Ministry, an isolation area has been set up for anyone showing symptoms. This is provided both on the main floor during school hours, as well as in a separate area for the daycare.

The best means of reducing the risk of contagion requires your support. If your child has a fever accompanied by one or more of the other flu symptoms (cough, headache, muscle pain, fatigue, sore throat) please be sure to keep him/her at home. If you receive a phone call from the school letting you know that your child is sick, please do all you can to pick him/her up immediately. These efforts are very important to help minimize the spread of the virus.

In light of the emerging number of cases we are seeing at SES, as a preventative measure **we have cancelled Friday's scheduled Halloween Activity in the gymnasium**. Activities will be contained to each classroom and the PPO will be providing a special treat for each student. Again, as preventative measures, **we will not be opening these activities to guests beyond the school** (staff & students) as we are trying to reduce exchanges among large groups within the school as much as possible. I thank you in advance for your understanding and support.

In addition, we are asking that you **send your child with a personal water bottle** (please ensure his/her name is clearly visible on the bottle) that he/she will keep with them in class. We will be shutting down our public water fountains, again, as a preventative measure in reducing the risk of contagion.

We also **strongly encourage** you to provide your child with a small individual container of hand sanitizer to supplement the stations provided in the school. A bottle the child can keep in his/her pocket may be more readily available as the need arises. Please use

your judgment with regard to your child's age, as well as helping him/her to understand when and how this sanitizer should be used (this product should contain at least 60% alcohol in order to be effective against H1N1). We will continue to encourage frequent hand washing as well as use of the hand sanitizer provided by the school.

Please call to advise us of your child's situation if they are not able to attend school. It is important for us to be aware of the reason for their absence and this helps us to implement any additional measures required in maintaining a safer environment for all.

On Monday a document was sent home with the youngest in each family. This document, entitled, "Sustained Service Delivery Plan", provides recommendations for families wishing to keep up with school work during a child's absence. We will also be posting this document to our web-site should you require an additional copy. It is not necessary to ask the teacher for work as this document was prepared to meet this need. If you have specific concerns, please call the school to speak with your child's teacher, Ms. Christodoulopoulos, or me. We will do our best to get back to you as quickly as possible.

More information on H1N1 can be obtained at the following web-site:
<http://www.pandemiequebec.gouv.qc.ca>

I thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Peggy McCourt
Principal