

## SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 73 (KAMLOOPS/THOMPSON)

1383-9th Avenue, Kamloops, B.C. V2C 3X7 • Telephone: (250) 374-0679 • Fax: (250) 372-1183

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May 5, 2009

Dear Parents:

I am writing to you about the emergence of the H1N1 virus, which has also been referred to as “Swine Flu”, or “Human Swine Flu”. I want to make you aware of the school district response to this virus and what each of us can do to prevent its transmission.

The health and safety of our students and staff are our major concern and any action we take will have that as our primary focus. The school district is working very closely with Interior Health and any response or action we take will be based on the advice and direction of the officials at Interior Health. Since our knowledge about the virus is increasing daily, I want to assure you that we are prepared to adjust our response based on the information we receive from Health officials.

At this point we are advised that there is no public health justification for disrupting the activities of our schools. We are monitoring daily the information from Interior Health and will advise you immediately if there is any need to change that position.

Please be aware of the following:

- Currently, there is no indication that *healthy* persons, regardless of where they have traveled should be excluded from attending schools.
- If you have a fever or cough illness, regardless of where you have traveled, stay home from work or school and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them.
- See a health care provider if your symptoms become worse but call ahead of time to let them know you have a fever or cough.
- You can call HealthLink BC at **8-1-1**, 24 hours a day/seven days a week to speak to a nurse if you have more questions or if you are feeling ill.

We have established a place on our school district website ([www.sd73.bc.ca](http://www.sd73.bc.ca)) where we will be posting all current information and links as soon as we receive them. If you do not have computer access, please contact your school or the School Board Office to receive copies of the information posted on our website.

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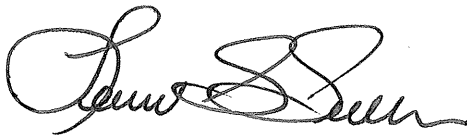
We have concluded from the information we have received to date that it is the little things that will make the biggest difference in helping us reduce the transmission of the virus. Please be aware of the following:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it. When you cough, do so into your sleeve if possible.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol based sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Don't share the same cup or share utensils with other people.
- Please refer to our website for information on how you can speak to your children about the virus, how to protect your children from the virus, and how to determine if your child has the virus.

Thank you for your attention and please remember to refer to our website for the most up to date information.

If you have any questions or concerns, you can also contact Ms. Michelle Marginet, Manager Health and Safety, School District 73.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terrence S. Sullivan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Terrence S Sullivan, Ph.D  
Superintendent of Schools

TSS:dh

cc: All Members of Staff