

October 2, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Questions have arisen about the H1N1 virus and how St. John's is dealing the issue. I did take a few minutes to address the subject at our 1st Home and School Meeting on September 3, but will answer a few concerns now.

- ❖ The school is thoroughly cleaned each and every school night. The cleaning crew uses a bleach based product to wash all surfaces that children and adults may come in contact with during the school day. Additionally, if it seems we have one specific class that has multiple children coming to the nurse's office, that classroom will receive extra attention. The cleaning crew operates under the watchful eye of Mrs. Harris, so we know everything that is supposed to be done is.
- ❖ Every room in the school has hand sanitizer. The children are encouraged to use it as much as they need to. We have refills available in the front office, so no class will run out. Also, there are tissues available in every room.
- ❖ The children are reminded constantly to wash their hands. I am posting age-appropriate posters that have directions on hand washing in all bathrooms.

The Archdiocese of Washington implemented a policy to track any and all suspected and confirmed cases of the H1N1. We have not had to report any cases yet. If your child exhibits any symptoms of the H1N1 or the seasonal flu symptoms, please do not send them to school. According to the CDC, these symptoms include: fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, body aches, headaches, chills and fatigue. They also may include vomiting and diarrhea.

Here are the school regulations related to illness:

- ❖ Any child that comes to the Health Room will be evaluated.
- ❖ Most children will get their temperatures taken. I have purchased a touch free thermometer for the younger children as I was having a difficult time getting a read due to the fact they do not like the thermometer probe under their tongues.
- ❖ Any child that has a temperature of 100.0 or higher is sent home immediately and not permitted to return until they are temperature free for 24 hours.
- ❖ Any child that has thrown up or states they have diarrhea will be sent home immediately and not permitted to return until they are symptom free for 24 hours.
- ❖ Any child that is absent for 3 or more consecutive school days must have a physicians note to return to class.
- ❖ Any class work or homework that is missed during the child's absence should be made up within that same amount of time (i.e. if a child misses 2 days of school, they have 2 days to make up their missed work). Students should ask their teacher if they require anymore extra time. Arrangements will be made on an individual basis.

The St. John's faculty and staff are working extremely hard to ensure a healthy environment for your children. Please do your part to help us in this endeavor. If you ever have any concerns, feel free to contact me or Mrs. Kadajski. I will have some H1N1 informational pamphlets on the check-in desk in the front lobby if you need any additional information. You can also visit the CDC website at www.cdc.gov.

Sincerely,
Sheri L. Beach
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