



Office of the Director of Education

September 8, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians:

With the start of a new school year and the return of students to their classrooms, there is again increased interest in the issue of the H1N1 virus. Toronto Public Health remains the local authority on health matters, and as such, the Board continues to take direction from them.

The Board's Pandemic Plan has been in place since April 27, 2009, and will remain in place as long as needed. We continue to advocate basic infection control measures recommended by health authorities:

- wash your hands frequently and thoroughly
- cover your cough/sneeze
- stay home if you are ill
- consult a physician if necessary if you have symptoms of influenza

The Board implemented additional cleaning measures last spring, which remained in place throughout the summer, and which will continue this fall. The Facilities Department arranged to provide a one hour refresher training to all custodians on custodial cleaning and disinfection procedures prior to the start of classes this year. The Board's supplier of custodial chemicals was on hand to demonstrate the use of the hospital grade disinfectant used in TCDSB schools.

If you have any questions regarding H1N1, you may contact Toronto Public Health at 416-338-7600, speak with your healthcare provider, Telehealth Ontario at 1-800-797-000 or our own Occupational Health and Safety Department—Corrado Maltese, Manager at 416-222-8282 ext. 2665.

Information about H1N1 is also posted on the board's website at www.tcdsb.org, including Public Health Agency of Canada's recent recommendations with respect to pregnant women.

Should there be any changes to the direction given by Toronto Public Health, we will be sure to pass on the new information to our school communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann Perron".

Ann Perron
Director of Education

cc. All TCDSB Staff
TCDSB Trustees