

Northeastern Catholic District School Board

PANDEMIC PLAN

2009 2014

"The wise, however,
took oil in jars along with their lamps."

Matthew 25:1-13

Updated: November 2013

UNDERSTANDING AN INFLUENZA PANDEMIC

The following

THE

virus is not well adapted to humans.

Small clusters in localized communities may occur. Encourage parents/guardians to find alternative day care options.

Possible school closures, under the authority and advisement of provincial or local Public Health Officials.

Plant & Maintenance monitor cleaning practices.

Human Resources Department monitors deployment of staff.

Communications department under

responsibility.

OPERATIONAL STRATEGIES

Once a pandemic is declared in the province of Ontario, the NCDSB will institute the following operational strategies to ensure a timely and responsible response to the pandemic:

- § School Principals shall advise a Supervisory Officer of absenteeism rates specific to influenza symptoms each day by 10:00 a.m. Trends will be documented by the principal and superintendent.
- § From 10:30 – 11:30 each day, the Pandemic Response Team will review the data and make necessary recommendations to the Director of Education. Required news releases and media communiques will be drafted as required by the Director of Education or his/her designate. designated designate.

Pandemic Response Team. The assessment may result in the following, pending direction from the Board of Trustees and Health Officials.

Board Meetings	Held as required and may be conducted electronically
Community Use of Schools	Continue until risk factors are increased and recommendations given by health officials suggest limiting school use. A letter to be sent to permit holders indicating a pandemic may result in school closures.
Coop Placements	Monitored daily and actions will be contingent upon direction from the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, and Health Canada
Computer Support	Continue to operate as normal providing sufficient staff is available. Items relating to pandemic communication will be given the highest priority.
Custodial Services	Frequency of services may be altered due to staffing levels and for non-infectious

Student Transportation	Transportation privileges will continue as long as it is safe to do so. If schools are open, transportation will continue (providing service providers are available). If some schools are closed, students attending those schools will not be transported. If schools are closed, transportation will cease.
Volunteers	May continue or suspend as per the authorization of the Director of Education

It is also important to note that during a pandemic any guidance provided by health officials that conflicts with this information will supercede the NCDSB guidelines.

Furthermore, decisions will be made based on community conditions, and operational guidelines may be instituted at different times in different locations across the school board.

FURTHER CONSIDERATIONS

The NCDSB departmental managers and senior administration team continue to make the necessary revisions to department contingency plans. This information will be developed, reviewed, and implemented under the leadership of the Director of Education.

RESOURCES TO CONSIDER

Government of Canada
www.influenza.gc.ca

Preparing for the Flu: A Communication Toolkit for Schools (Grades K-12)
 Center for Disease Control & Prevention
www.pandemicflu.gov/

The Ontario Health Plan for an Influenza Pandemic
www.health.gov.on.ca/pandemic

H1N1 Information
www.fightflu.ca

World Health Organization
www.who.int/en

Public Health Agency of Canada
www.publichealth.gc.ca

Porcupine Health Unit / Timiskaming Health Unit
www.porcupinehu.on.ca
www.timiskaminghu.com

Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety

www.ccohs.ca

Did you know...

That washing your hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds (the time it takes to sing your ABCs) is the best way to keep your hands from spreading the virus.

APPENDIX

**HOW TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN
THE INFLUENZA & A COLD**
Health Facts

Symptom	Cold	Influenza
Fever	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usual high fever (102°F/39°C to 104°F/40°C) • Sudden onset last 3-4 days (The elderly and people who are immune compromised may not develop a fever.)
Headache	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usual • Can be sudden
Muscle aches and pains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sometimes generally mild 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usual • Often severe
Tiredness and weakness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sometimes generally mild 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usual, severe • May last up to 2-3 weeks
Extreme Fatigue	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unusual 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usual • Early onset • Can be severe
Runny, stuffy nose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common
Sneezing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sometimes
Sore throat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common
Chest discomfort, coughing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sometimes mild to moderate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common can be moderate to severe • Cough may last for weeks.
Complications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can lead to sinus congestion or infections 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can lead to pneumonia and respiratory failure, and become life threatening • Can worsen a chronic condition

PREVENTION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequent hand washing • Cover your coughs and sneezes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual influenza vaccination • Pneumococcal vaccine for those at risk of complications • Frequent hand washing • Cover your coughs and sneezes.
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NOTE: Children may also experience the croup, ear infections, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea when they have

NORTHEASTERN CATHOLIC

POSTPANDEMIC

Return to the Interpandemic Period.

- Evaluate the NCDSB's response to the emergency situation
- Respond according to policy guidelines and procedures F #6 Response to Tragic Events
- Reassure all school communities
- Ensure critical supplies are replenished to maintain essential services