



NORTH VANCOUVER SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 44

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September 8, 2009

Dear Parents, Students, and Staff:

Subject: H1N1 Flu Virus

The Province of British Columbia is preparing for a possible resurgence of the H1N1 flu virus in the fall and has prepared information materials for parents, students, and school district staff. Links to these documents are available on our School District website, www.nvsd44.bc.ca, [H1N1 Flu Virus – Information](#). I encourage you to take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with this subject matter. These documents include:

- [Protecting your kids from the H1N1 flu virus](#)
- [If you think your child has the H1N1 flu virus](#)
- [Talking to kids about the H1N1 flu virus](#)
- [Q&A for parents about the H1N1 flu virus](#)
- [Helping children cope with H1N1-related stress](#)
- [Helping adults cope with H1N1-related stress](#)
- [Q&A for students around the H1N1 flu virus.](#)

The vast majority of our community members have electronic access to these materials so we have made a decision to not distribute over 130,000 double-sided-print pages to our families. Additionally, if there are any updates or urgent situations, we want you to know how and where to access current H1N1 information. If you do not have access to the website copies, please phone or send a note to your child's school. The school will prepare print copies for you.

Dr. Perry Kendall, the Provincial Medical Health Officer, does not expect that individual school closures or community-wide closures will be useful in controlling the spread and impact of the H1N1 flu virus. If it is necessary to close any schools, the decision will be made by Dr. Kendall and Dr. Brian O'Connor, the North Shore's Medical Health Officer. We would immediately communicate this information to you via phone calls (Synrevoice) and postings on our website.

If you have any health questions or concerns about symptoms of illness, you can phone HealthLink BC at 8-1-1. This service is available 24 hours / 7 days a week.

To safeguard the health of everyone, we will be reviewing proper hand-washing techniques and cough/sneeze etiquette with our students. It is our expectation that parents will reinforce these health practices with their children. If students and/or staff experience symptoms of illness, please do not attend school until you are well. By working together, we can minimize the spread of illness within our schools and the community.

Yours sincerely,

John Lewis
Superintendent of Schools