

Dr. David McKeown
Medical Officer of Health

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May 11, 2009

Dear Parent or Guardian:

A student or staff person at Essex Junior and Senior Public School has become infected with the H1N1 influenza virus, which is also known as the “human swine flu” virus. There is very low risk of serious illness from this virus.

Toronto Public Health is advising that the school should continue to operate as usual. This recommendation is consistent with guidelines issued by the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and the Public Health Agency of Canada.

H1N1 influenza is a respiratory virus that can cause symptoms similar to those of regular seasonal influenza. These symptoms include fever, chills, cough, sore throat, headache, muscle aches, fatigue, and possibly nausea, vomiting, or diarrhoea.

Students and staff at the school may have been exposed to the H1N1 flu virus, and should watch for symptoms of influenza. This is especially important if they have an underlying medical condition that might put them at increased risk of more severe illness.

Students and staff who do not have symptoms should continue to attend school and work, even if they have had recent exposure to the H1N1 influenza virus.

Students or staff who have symptoms of influenza should stay home and contact their doctor or other health care provider if necessary.

Toronto Public Health is encouraging everyone in the community to wash their hands frequently and to sneeze or cough into a tissue or into their sleeve. These are general measures that will help prevent the spread of influenza and other respiratory illnesses.

For more information, please see the attached fact sheet. Students and staff who have questions can call Toronto Public Health at 416-338-7600 or speak with their doctor or health care provider.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Byaffe".

Dr. Barbara Yaffe
Director, Communicable Disease Control
and Associate Medical Officer of Health



Attach.