

# School District No. 71 (Comox Valley)

Board of Education

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## H1N1 Flu Virus Information for Parents

September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Welcome back to a new school year. Each year has its own unique challenges and this year we are faced with planning for the fall flu season with the consideration of H1N1. I wanted to send this information home today so that all parents know how the district is planning and preparing for the flu season and any H1N1 cases.

We are sending home with your child today two pages of information:

- Protecting your kids from the H1N1 Flu virus; and
- If you think your child may have the H1N1 flu virus.

There is a great deal of more information for parents available online either through our district website at [www.sd71.bc.ca](http://www.sd71.bc.ca) or through the Vancouver Island Health Authority's website at [www.viha.ca](http://www.viha.ca). We continue to work closely with our local medical health officer about planning for any H1N1 cases and our routine processes for the fall flu season.

I strongly encourage you to read the information that came home today and to visit our district website or VIHA's website. If you do not have access to technology, your local school will be able to provide you with access to view these materials.

As usual, our precautions to parents remain:

- Teach your children to wash their hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds. Be sure to set a good example by doing this yourself.
- Teach your children to cough and sneeze into a tissue or into the inside of their elbow. Be sure to set a good example by doing this yourself.
- Teach your children to stay at least two metres (six feet) away from people who are sick.

- Children who are sick should stay home from school and daycare and stay away from other people until they are better.

We are working to equip each of our schools with hand sanitizer stations for students and staff. While we are not requiring it, many parents will also choose to send their children to school this year with a bottle of hand sanitizer for personal use.

Each school district is preparing a Response Plan in preparation for H1N1. As we have more information for parents, we will be updating our website or communicating directly through your school and children. The district is taking our planning very seriously and although we do not expect an unusual year of the flu season, we are taking all necessary precautions and will continue to work with the provincial and local medical health services.

I wish each of you a great school start up and a successful year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jordan Tinney". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jordan Tinney  
Superintendent of Schools