

School District No. 71 (Comox Valley)

Board of Education

607 Cumberland Road
Courtenay, B.C. V9N 7G5
Fax (250) 334 5552
Telephone (250) 334 5500

Office of the Superintendent of Schools

May 4, 2009

Dear Parents, Students and Staff,

We want to keep everyone in our schools and community current on the news and progress of the H1N1 virus (human swine flu). Today, we are sending home with all children in the Comox Valley a copy of a special Ministry newsletter. The electronic version is on our district website where all the links are active.

We have been working closely with our local Medical Health Officer on the situation and, at this time, there are two confirmed cases of the H1N1 virus in adults from the Comox Valley area both with recent travel to Mexico and both have fully recovered. In investigating the cases, there is no evidence that anyone else in close contact with these individuals has become ill. We have in place clear protocols on communication with parents and our schools as the situation unfolds.

The health and safety of our students and schools is paramount. We are being proactive in reviewing with students how to properly wash their hands to take precautions and to help stop the spread of any illness.

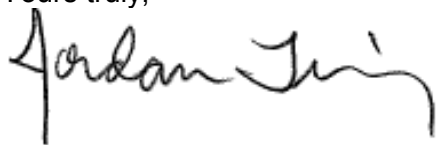
If your child is sick, we encourage you to keep them home. The text below is from the fightflu.ca website from the Public Health Agency of Canada.

All strains of influenza can be dangerous; however, good infection prevention measures can help protect you and others if this virus begins to spread rapidly in Canada.

- *Wash your hands often and thoroughly in warm, soapy water or use hand sanitizer*
- *Cough and sneeze in your arm, not your hand*
- *Keep common surfaces and items clean and disinfected*
- *Stay home if you're sick, unless directed to seek medical care*

The school district will continue to monitor the situation and, as stated above, will be providing information to parents as it emerges.

Yours truly,



Jordan Tinney
Superintendent of Schools