

April 28, 2009

Dear Parents,

This letter is to inform you that the St. Dunstan School has taken steps to prepare and prevent the transmission of flu and other illnesses in preparation for a potential pandemic flu that could make many people sick. We are currently in stage 4 of a 6-stage process to deal with such a situation. The 4th stage is one of preparation for the possibility of a more serious approach to responding to the potential of wider pandemic flu.

It is important to know that at this time, there is no pandemic flu of any kind in the United States. There is also no bird/avian flu in the United States at this time. Public health officials are concerned that the flu virus or bird/avian flu could cause people to become infected and pass from person to person. This could result in a pandemic.

Public health officials want you to protect yourself and your family against pandemic flu. We are also giving you some tips about how to care for your family if they are ill. Here are some ways to stop the spread of germs and sickness:

- Keep children who are sick at home. Don't send them to school. Keep your child an extra day to make sure he/she is completely well. **Here at St. Dunstan School a note from your child's doctor clearing her/him to return to school is required at this time.**
- Teach your children to wash hands a lot with soap and water for 20 seconds. Be sure to set a good example by doing this yourself.
- Teach your children to cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or by coughing into the inside of the elbow. Be sure to set a good example by doing this yourself.
- Teach your children to stay away at least three feet away from people who are sick.
- People who are sick should stay home from work or school and stay away from other people until they are better.
- Stay away from shopping malls, movie theaters or other places where there are large groups of people.

If you have questions, please contact your healthcare provider. San Mateo County has a good plan and helpful information for parents. You can get more information from the San Mateo County Health Department on line www.co.sanmateo.ca.us or calling 650 573.2346. In addition you may call the Health Emergency Information Line: 1-888-959-9911. Information can be found through the American Red Cross @ <http://www.redcross.org>. The federal government website with information on planning for individuals and families: <http://www.pandemicflu.gov>.

As we go forward I will keep you posted when additional information requires us to do so.

Sincerely,
Dr. Bruce Colville. Principal