



School District No. 20 (Kootenay-Columbia)

Suite 120 – 1290 Esplanade, Trail, BC V1R 4T2
Tel: (250) 368-6434 Fax: (250) 364-2470

October 21, 2009

Dear Parents:

The Interior Health Authority (IHA) is reporting that there is an increase in visits to doctors' clinics and admissions to hospitals, as expected, during the fall. Only those admitted to hospitals are being tested for the H1N1 virus. The plan, at this time, is to make immunizations available in November at clinics throughout the communities.

Our schools report to our public health nurse whenever student absences rates are at and above 10%. The public health nurse notifies our Medical Health Officer, who notifies the Provincial Health Officer. Schools and school districts are not notified when H1N1 is confirmed, because there is nothing additional that schools need to do that we are not already doing.

Schools are teaching students about proper hand washing & proper covering of sneezes and coughs; alcohol-based sanitizers are provided in areas where soap and water are not accessible; high traffic surfaces are being cleaned regularly; and, ill individuals are isolated and sent home.

IHA advice is:

- Keep children who are sick at home. Don't send them to school.
- Teach your children to wash hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds. Please set a good example by doing this yourself.
- Teach your children to cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or by coughing/sneezing into the inside of the elbow. Please set a good example by doing this yourself.
- Teach your children to stay away from people who are sick.
- People who are sick should stay home from work or school and avoid other people until they are better.

Individuals who already have underlying health concerns should contact their doctor to determine if antiviral medication is needed.

If you have questions, please contact your healthcare provider. You can get more information from the Interior Health Authority. Visit online at: <http://www.interiorhealth.ca/H1N1.aspx>.

The Ministry of Healthy Living and Sports contains valuable up-to-date information and can be found on their website at: <http://www.fightflu.ca/>. More information is available on our district web site at: www.sd20.bc.ca.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Jean Borsa'.

Jean Borsa
Superintendent of Schools