

May 1, 2009

Dear Peel District School Board Families,

We are writing to assure you that the Peel District School Board is carefully monitoring the H1N1 flu virus (human swine influenza) situation. At this time Peel schools are operating as normal, and there is no local impact on our schools.

The Peel board is in regular communication with Peel Public Health regarding the international flu outbreak. **We have been advised by Peel Health that there are no special precautions or actions that need to be taken by schools or the board at this point.** They are the medical professionals and our schools will follow their guidance and direction on how to respond to this outbreak.

Peel Public Health is advising residents to take the following routine steps to protect their health:

- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Alcohol-based hand cleaners are also effective.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.
- If you are unwell, stay home from school or work to prevent spreading illness. Consult with your health care provider if you are concerned about your symptoms.

All Peel board schools are reviewing with students the proper way to wash their hands. A detailed hand washing fact sheet is posted on www.peelschools.org.

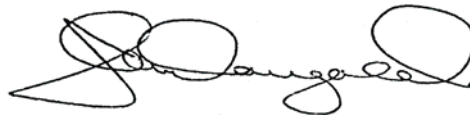
The Peel board has a comprehensive pandemic preparedness plan that is activated only if a pandemic is declared in Ontario. This information, available in 25 languages, can be accessed through the *Get the Facts* section of our website—www.peelschools.org.

For more information about the flu, visit the Peel Public Health website at www.peelregion.ca. Mississauga and Brampton residents can call 905-799-7700, and Caledon residents can call 905-584-2216 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., from Monday to Friday. You can also talk to your doctor or call TeleHealth at 1-866-797-0000.

For ongoing updates please visit our website, www.peelschools.org.



Jim Grieve
Director of Education



Janet McDougald
Chair of the Board