



# DESALES CATHOLIC SCHOOL

*Challenged by Faith. Inspired by Knowledge.*

October 15, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians of Children of DeSales Catholic School:

DeSales Catholic School was notified this morning of documented cases of Type A influenza in our school community. The purpose of this letter is to provide additional information. DeSales has consulted with the Niagara County Health Department and the students will remain out of school for the recommended exclusion period. DeSales is following guidelines set forth by the New York State Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control. There is no reason to close school at this time. It is possible that cases of Novel H1N1 influenza may arise. Please be assured that we are monitoring the situation closely and collaborate regularly with the Niagara County Health Department.

It is very important that you do not send your child to school if he/she is experiencing any flu like symptoms, which include: fever of greater than 100° F, runny nose, nasal congestion, sore throat, cough, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, body aches, rash, increased fatigue, decreased appetite, pale appearance and lack of energy. Please consider contacting your child's health care provider. It is important that you notify the school health office if your child has any symptoms or if you have consulted with your physician. Students who are ill should remain home and away from others until they have been fever free for a minimum of 24 hours without fever reducing medicine. ***If they are absent or excused early from school due to illness, they are not able to participate in after school activities which include interscholastic sport, clubs or school sponsored events.***

Please be assured that all school personnel are familiar with hygiene practices and are taking all necessary precautions to protect the health and safety of our students, faculty, staff and the community. Our custodial staff will maintain their regimen of cleaning and disinfecting according to guidelines.

We advise that all community members follow the guidelines below to help prevent the spread of illness:

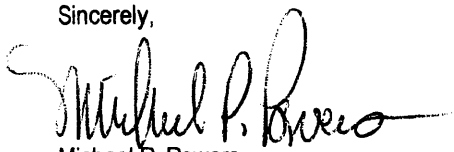
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or the inside of your elbow when coughing or sneezing
- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Stay home when sick and limit contact with others to keep from infecting them
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth as germs are often spread when a person touches something that is contaminated
- Contact your primary care physician if anyone is experiencing fever and influenza symptoms
- Contact your primary care physician or local health department for a flu shot and H1N1 vaccination


For more information about swine flu H1N1, please visit the NYS Department of Health website:

<http://www.health.state.ny.us/diseases/communicable/influenza/h1n1/> or call the New York State Department of Health Swine Flu Hot Line at 1-800-808-1987. We will continue to keep our community updated via postings on our Website at [www.desalescatholicsschool.org](http://www.desalescatholicsschool.org).

Thank you for your patience, cooperation and understanding.

Sincerely,

  
Michael P. Powers  
Principal

  
Janet Metz, RN  
School Nurse