

May 4, 2009

Dear Nativity Catholic School Parents,

Please know the safety and health of your child(ren) is our first priority.

As a diocesan system of Catholic Schools, the 52 Catholic Schools and Early Childhood Centers within the Diocese of St Petersburg are working together with the local Health Departments and Center for Disease Control (CDC) to help prevent H1N1 (swine flu) on our campuses. You, as parents, can assist us in our efforts.

Please carefully read the attached letter from our Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Dr. John Cummings, which is being sent home from all our schools today. It is important that each Nativity Catholic School family abide by the suggestions/directives in Dr. John's letter. As you are aware, three Hillsborough County public schools were put in a seven day quarantine by the CDC this morning.

Most importantly, please do not send your child to school if he/she is not feeling well, even mildly ill. H1N1 flu symptoms include fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headaches, chills, fatigue, diarrhea, vomiting, and upper respiratory infections. Students and employees who experience any flu symptoms will be required to get a physician's signature on the form provided all of our Catholic Schools by the diocese verifying that the person does not have H1N1 before the person can return to campus. This form will be located on our website's homepage. A sample of the form, which will be required for the duration of this academic year, is on the back of this letter.

Effective immediately, parents **MUST** phone the school office before 8:30 if their child is not coming to school on any given day. Whatever the reason for your child's absence, whether illness, an orthodontist appointment, a family outing, etc., it is imperative that the school know the reason for your child's absence. If you do not call the school, then the school is required to call you. All the information collected daily about absences related to illness must be reported to both the Hillsborough County Health Department and the Diocesan Office of Catholic Schools and Centers (OCSC) by 9:00 AM. each day.

Each parent is asked to also review the H1N1 PowerPoint presentation on our website for more information. In addition, we will be educating children about how to limit the spread of any flu. You'll see *Cover Your Cough* and *Germ Stopper* flyers throughout the campus as part of this effort.

We will keep you posted if we receive any new information or directives. May God continue to bless us all.

Bernadette Kunnen, Ed.D.
Principal