



Sacred Heart Academy

47 Cathedral Avenue
Hempstead, New York 11550

October 28, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you know, flu can easily spread from person to person. Therefore, we are taking steps to reduce the spread of the flu in Sacred Heart Academy. We are working with the New York State Department of Education as well as the Nassau County Health Department to monitor flu conditions and make decisions about the best steps to take concerning the welfare of our students.

Sacred Heart Academy will follow the protocol stated below to prevent the spread of H1N1 Influenza (Swine flu):

- * Maintain close contact with the County and State health officials (please see Dr. Maria Carney's letter that is attached and on our website),
- * Keep Sacred Heart Academy open in a normal manner during the epidemic unless conditions drastically change,
- * Continue to clean surfaces and items that are more likely to have frequent hand contact with cleaning agents and disposable paper products,
- * Remind staff and students to properly wash their hands and provide the time and supplies needed whenever necessary, especially after coughing or sneezing. In lavatory areas there is access to liquid soap dispensers and in the cafeteria Purell® hand sanitizers are in convenient dispensers to supplement washing with soap and water,
- * Provide staff and students' reminders and education about covering the nose and mouth with a tissue when coughing or sneezing and throwing the tissue in the provided trash receptacle immediately after its use. If a tissue is unavailable coughing or sneezing into one's arm or sleeve (not into one's hand) is recommended,
- * Mandate students and staff with Influenza Like Illness (ILI) to go home and remain home until at least 24 hours after they are free of fever (100 degrees F) without the use of fever-reducing medications. This also applies to those taking Tamiflu® or other viral suppressant medications. A person may return to Sacred Heart Academy while taking Tamiflu® as long as he/she has been free of fever without the help of medications containing acetaminophen or ibuprofen for at least 24 hours,
- * Authorize the school nurse to determine if a student or staff member appears to have ILI at arrival or becomes ill during the day. Those individuals who appear to have ILI will be isolated in a room separate from others in order to minimize the spread of illness to others.

If the increase in scope and severity compared with the spring 2009 H1N1 outbreak were to occur, Sacred Heart Academy with the guidance of State and County education and health officials, will take appropriate measures. In any case, please be assured that we will make all necessary accommodations for your daughter to make up missed classwork and tests. Her physical well being is our prime concern and a necessary condition for her academic success.

Sincerely,
Sister Joanne Forker, CSJ
Principal