



- ## Prevention and Monitoring
- Regular bulletins to parents and students about prevention and monitoring
  - Presentations at staff meetings
  - Monitoring of the Public Health guidelines
  - Monitoring of our absentee rates for both students and employees
  - Gathering of data
  - Identification and masking of anyone with “influenza-like illness” (ILI)

## Message to Parents

- Keep your child home if symptoms include cough *and* fever, muscle pain or sore throat. Identify influenza-like symptoms when you notify the school.
- Instruct your child in proper hand washing techniques and proper sneeze/cough etiquette. Hand washing is the most effective prevention.
- Ensure your child has an ample supply of hand sanitizer and uses it when hand washing is not possible.

## Message to Parents

- Please do not send your child to school with instructions to wear a mask. Masks are considered to be ineffective protection from the flu. Only students who have reported sick to the Main Office and show influenza-like symptoms will use masks until their parents can pick them up from school.

## Message to Parents

- The Public Health Agency of Canada does not recommend that members of the general public wear surgical masks to protect against contracting H1N1 Flu Virus . Evidence shows that this is not effective in preventing transmission of influenza in the general public. People often use masks incorrectly, or contaminate themselves when putting masks on and taking them off, which could actually increase the risk of infection.
- The exception is people who are ill with H1N1 Flu Virus or people who are exhibiting flu-like symptoms. In order to protect those in close contact, like doctors, nurses, and caregivers at home, these people may be asked to wear a face mask. [www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/index-eng.php](http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/index-eng.php)

## Message to Students

- Stay home if you have a fever *and* cough, muscle pain or sore throat.
- Use regular hand washing, cough/sneeze etiquette and hand sanitizer. Sanitizers may supplement but do not replace regular hand washing.
- Take extra precautions when in malls, on transit or large gathering places, or when sharing equipment.

## Message to Employees

- Your personal health:
  - Stay home if you are experiencing influenza-like symptoms (cough *and* fever, sore throat, muscle pain) and notify us when you call in sick
  - Take all the same precautions we teach students to take.
  - Wipe down shared equipment in offices such as keyboards and telephones with anti-bacterial wipes.

## Message to Employees

- Your professional responsibility:
  - Send any student who appears unwell to the Main Office immediately and notify the office. It will be especially important that all teachers and the many support staff who deal directly with our students follow this instruction.

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## Message to Teachers

- Attendance rates will be monitored for potential reporting to Public Health so ensure you take daily attendance and submit it in a timely fashion.
- Be prepared for absenteeism to affect assessments and group work.
- Continue to instruct students re prevention.
- Ensure your materials are available on line.
- Ensure that there are at least two emergency lessons on file for your classes and that these are easily accessible.

## School Closure

- At present, Public Health has declared school closure to be an undesirable response. This position may change if the outbreak is worse than expected. We will monitor the appropriate sources.
- Any closure of UTS would be the decision of Public Health.

## Masking

- We will mask students identified as showing symptoms of an influenza-like illness until they are picked up by parents.
- Masking will not be used in any other situation unless we receive advice from health services to the contrary.

## Keep in mind...

- We want to educate and protect everyone without frightening them. We've had, recently, bad flu seasons and we are better prepared now than ever to take measures to contain the flu.

## And also...

- Not every flu is swine-flu. We do not anticipate widespread testing. We should not assume every flu is H1N1.
- We have to be alert to labelling and shunning.
- Do not give advice about flu shots, H1N1 vaccines or flu medication.

## Finally

- There are opportunities in several subjects for a scholarly look at this phenomena and I hope we take advantage of that.