

October 22, 2009

Brothers & Sisters In Catholic Education,

As I begin this newsletter to you, my intent is to make this a very short one. Let's see how successful I am.

As you are well aware we, as a world, are keeping a watchful eye on this H1N1 influenza. We are watching our children closely as well as the news reports. The Center for Disease Control in Atlanta reports it appears children under the age of 18 are most at risk (I have heard this age stated up to 24 to include our children who are away at college). It seems school agers are the most vulnerable to catching and sharing this disease. Please reinforced what we are asking the children to do about 'safety hygiene' (wash hands, cough into the crook of the arm, don't share drinking containers, get lots of sleep, drink plenty of fluids, etc.). We have asked parents whose children have moderately high (100 degrees or above) fevers to stay home. This is going to be one of the very few times as a school administrator that I plan to be tolerant of student absences. I'd rather you keep a sick child home and we send you their work than you allow the student come to school and risk infecting anyone else. We realize in many cases this is a tough decision because you work during the day and have no place else for your child to be during the school day. Due to the seriousness of this situation we are insisting on you support in this matter.

Please note, the only time we will close this building due to the flu is in the event the Health department tells us to. Otherwise, we will keep this building open through out this problem.

I think I'll hold back on any other news for a future newsletter. This topic is important enough to stand alone.

Your Servant,

Rick Erickson, PhD
Principal/Administrator