

# Hadley and Philemon Health Update

In the last few days, our parents and guardians have been hearing many things about the health of our school (and schools in general) and the A-H1N1 Virus.

Along with a letter being sent through the mail to every parent/staff member from the school – I have decided to send everyone an update about how things are going here at Hadley and Philemon.

From Wednesday to today (Friday the 29<sup>th</sup> of October) our school population has reported absentee rates above 10% as requested by the Direction Regional de l'Outaouais (MELS regional office).

Several parents of our absentees have confirmed that they are keeping their children home due to flu like symptoms: fever, cough, aches and pains, and nausea.

I strongly recommend that if a student is showing these signs he/she should remain at home until the symptoms disappear.

Given the above information and knowing that cases are not always diagnosed by a physician, I can now safely assume that some of our students have contracted the A (H1N1) virus.

Our schools continue to operate as usual.

There have been no special requests from the Ministère de la Santé et des Services Sociaux to use schools as an inoculation site. Vaccination in Québec falls under the responsibility of the Ministère de la Santé et des Services Sociaux. The MSSS has received many such requests and its position on this issue has not changed. If required to do so by the MSSS and should the MSSS decide that such measures are warranted, we are equipped and ready to organize, facilitate and participate in such measures on behalf of our staff and students.

Please rest assured that our schools continue to take all necessary steps to ensure the safety of all of our students, parents/guardians and staff.  
Our individual and collective health is our main concern.

I ask that all parents/guardians call the school to verify a student's absence and that parents/guardians be specific when including information on whether it is a flu-related absence.

We also ask that parents/guardians forward emergency information immediately to the school by emailing or calling the attendance coordinator at [attendancehadleypw@wqsb.qc.ca](mailto:attendancehadleypw@wqsb.qc.ca).

As a precaution and to ensure the safety of all students and staff, I am asking that all students who are sick and need to go home be picked-up from school as soon as possible. I thank our parents/guardians, students and staff in advance for everyone's continued cooperation.

The following sites have informative and up-to-date information regarding this topic:

<http://www.pandemiequebec.gouv.qc.ca/fr/index.aspx.html>

<http://vaccination.msss.gouv.qc.ca/>

I wish everyone a safe and healthy rest of the year.

T.Kharyati  
Principal  
Hadley Junior High School  
Philemon Wright High School