

October 5, 2009

School survey assesses implementation of H1N1 protocols

OECTA is surveying all schools to assess the implementation of the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care protocols and guidelines for the prevention and management of H1N1 influenza.

Schools and board officials should be adhering to the Ministry's protocols, published in the document *Guidelines for the Prevention and Management of Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 in Elementary and Secondary Schools*. This document can be found at:

www.health.gov.on.ca/english/public/updates/archives/hu_09/provider/sf_docs/school_guidelines_20090828.pdf

From October 2 - 9, 2009, the OECTA Rep in your school will gather information about how H1N1 protocols are being implemented. Among other things, OECTA is asking if your school has:

- informed teachers and other education workers on their roles and responsibilities concerning their students and the risk of an outbreak of H1N1
- an adequate supply of soap, paper towels, hand sanitizers
- a designated area set aside where students who are ill can be isolated from other students

- signs illustrating proper hygiene techniques posted at washing and alcohol-based hand sanitizer stations
- tissues available to every classroom and to every teacher

Teachers can assist their OECTA Rep to gather this information, which will help to protect the health of everyone in their schools.

Pregnant women and those with compromised immune systems should seek advice from their doctor.