

## PUBLIC HEALTH

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**To:** Parents/Guardians and Staff  
**From:** Niagara Region Public Health

**RE: Preventing Respiratory Illness in Schools**

In light of the recent outbreak of enterovirus infection among young children in the United States and parts of Canada, and with flu season fast approaching, please find this letter as a reminder that both attentive observation and careful practicing of infection control measures can help reduce the spread of infection.

More information about enterovirus D68 can be found at:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/non-polio-enterovirus/about/ev-d68.html>

The following infection control measures play an important role in preventing children, parents, and staff from getting sick and in preventing outbreaks:

**Ensure frequent and thorough hand washing** by children, parents, and staff especially after sneezing, coughing and visiting the washroom. Take the opportunity to teach hand washing to children, and to reinforce the benefits of hand washing to both parents and staff.

**Cover your cough or sneeze** with a tissue or by using your sleeve. Discourage use of hand(s) to cover the mouth.

**Enhanced cleaning and sanitizing** - efforts should be focused on all surfaces that are frequently touched, such as hand rails, door knobs, bathroom fixtures and desks. Ensure directions on disinfectant labeling are followed.

**Encourage children and staff to stay home** if they are sick in an effort to minimize contact with others.

Please contact the Infectious Disease program at 905-688-8248 ext.7330 if you require further information.

Yours truly,

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