

Dear Parents,

Every year many students and staff become ill and lose days at school because of illness. By following some simple hand washing and other preventative measures, we can reduce the number of people getting sick from the cold and flu.

Posters showing the procedure for proper hand washing and how to limit the spread of germs when coughing and sneezing have been posted in bathrooms and classrooms. Soap dispensers have been installed in strategic locations, such as school entrances and cafeterias. Along with these measures, all staff members have been made aware of the importance of preventative measures and are encouraging students to use them.

The best defense against the spread of germs is the awareness of proper and effective hygiene both at school and at home.

Here are some ways to protect your family:

- **Keep children who are sick at home. Don't send them to school.**
- Teach your children to wash hands often with soap and water for 20 seconds. Be sure to set a good example by doing this yourself.
- Teach your children to cover coughs and sneezes with tissues or by coughing into the inside of the elbow. Be sure to set a good example by doing this yourself.
- Teach your children to stay at least three feet away from people who are sick.
- People who are sick should stay home from school and avoid other people until they are better.

If used, these simple, yet very important, preventative actions will reduce the occurrence of illness in our schools. The common cold, the flu and 'the gastro' germs must be transmitted from one person to the next in order for illness to spread. If we all make an extra effort during this time of unusually high presence of these germs in our schools to prevent the spread, we can then feel confident that we have really reduced their negative effect.

If you have questions, please contact your CLSC or other healthcare provider.

You can get more information from the government website with information on planning for individuals and families:

http://www.msss.gouv.qc.ca/sujets/prob_sante/influenza/index.php?accueil_en