

Mother of Divine Grace School
2612 East Monmouth Street
Philadelphia PA 19134

October 2009

Dear Mother of Divine Grace Families,

In the wake of our announcement concerning the H1N1 virus/"Swine Flu", we have obviously been inundated with questions and concerns from parents, which is both expected and understandable. At this time we are presently waiting for the additional positive results for H1N1. This DOES NOT constitute the closure of school or further action at this time. It is also not unreasonable to expect that there may be more cases reported in the future. Any precautions or steps we have already taken will not change unless the need arises. Everything that can be done is being done. We are working closely with the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and monitoring the situation. If it becomes necessary to close school or to put into place any further drastic actions, our school parents will be the first to know.

It is important to be able to "weed out" the rumors as opposed to facts. The comments we've been hearing over the past 24 hours have not only been false or half-truths, but they are hurtful to school morale and unfair to students or families being mentioned. Both the school and the families who are infected are following proper guidelines and directives to assist in monitoring further cases and keeping the issue under control. Again, any actions that need to be taken to another level will be decided among the administration in collaboration with the Archdiocese and other proper officials.

In addition to what has been reported to us, we have also had the majority of families with "sick" children report that they have been to the doctors and have tested negative, or are experiencing other ailments not related to the H1N1 virus. At this particular time in our community and our overall society, it is important to be educated about the H1N1 virus and how it can be dealt with appropriately. We have included links on our school website that may assist in this process as well as a letter from the Superintendent from our diocese in this matter.

It is very easy to become concerned or frightened with cases such as this, especially with the way the media has been portraying this matter. While we certainly do not take this situation lightly in any way, it is also easy to see how false information can lead to unnecessary concern or worry. We hope that the information we have provided will assist in putting your minds at ease, and we thank you for your understanding and cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Jane Ellen Lockhart
Principal